



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.

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

Method Statement Title:	Tension Control Bolts, Wrexham
Method Statement Version Number:	1
Method Statement Issue Date:	09.03.21
Site Address:	Tension Control Bolts TCB House Clywedog Road South Wrexham Industrial Estate Wrexham LL13 9XS

Background and Supporting Information

A Executive Summary.

Planning approval has been granted (Wrexham Council references 2019/0341 and 2020/0094) for the construction of three extensions (Extension A (30,190ft² / 2804m²), Extension B (12,204ft² / 1134m²) and Extension C (1752ft² / 163m²)) to two industrial warehouse buildings with additional parking, service yard and hard-landscaping.

Pond 1, located on site, supports a medium population size class of great crested newt (GCN).

Although the majority of the extension works will be carried out on areas of hard-standing and habitats unsuitable for use by sheltering GCN the following impacts are identified:

- a. Loss of 0.016ha of coarse grassland within 25 metres of Pond 1 to extend the service yard around Extension A;
- b. Loss of 0.04ha of close mown grassland over 50 metres from Pond 1 (at Extensions B and C);
- c. Temporary disturbance of terrestrial habitats around Pond 1 and aquatic habitats at Pond 1 as works are carried out to excavate the pond to a greater capacity (increase of 95m³ required) and install a new outfall to a drain that takes outflow water to the brook (all water travels through an interceptor);
- d. Risk of introduction of invasive plant species to the Ecological Mitigation Zone during works;
- e. Risk of harm to individual GCN during the construction period;
- f. Risk of harm to individual GCN during the operation of the site owing to the presence of drainage channels and tall kerbstones / physical barriers.

To mitigate for the identified impacts and ensure no adverse effect on the favourable conservation status of GCN at the site the following will be carried out:

- a. Toolbox talk to be provided to all relevant contractors;
- b. Installation of a one-way temporary amphibian fence at the boundary between the Ecological Mitigation Zone and the Construction Area to remain present for the period of construction;
- c. Hand and destructive search of the 0.04ha amenity grassland at Extension B and C.
- d. 0.016ha section of coarse grassland to be affected by extension of hard-standing around Extension A to be strimmed to a height of 100mm (no lower). Area to be hand searched for amphibians and then removed (after a second / lower strim if needed).

- e. Any detected amphibians to be carefully placed in a bucket and translocated immediately to suitable terrestrial habitats the Ecological Mitigation Zone on the opposite side of the one-way TAF.
- f. Prior to the construction of the hibernaculum the grassland will be strimmed to a height of 100mm height and hand searched for amphibians. Once the area and route for access is clear of amphibians the hibernacula will be constructed.
- g. Route for the excavator (and dumper) to enter the Ecological Mitigation Zone and excavate Pond 1 to increase its capacity by 95m³ will be strimmed and hand-searched. Route to follow the existing path as much as possible. Works at the pond will be carried out between November and January to avoid the amphibian breeding season;
- h. The Aco drain will be installed with a mesh / grating to avoid any hazards associated with GCN entering the drainage system;
- i. The kerbs at the boundary between the extended hard-standing and the Ecological Mitigation Zone will accommodate 4 x 1800mm long sections of dropped / battered kerbs to ensure any GCN that venture on to the hard-standing are not obstructed by the 125mm high kerbs and are able to return to the Ecological Mitigation Zone;
- j. Adherence to a Biosecurity Risk Assessment; and
- k. Adherence to a Long-term Management, Surveillance and Monitoring Plan.

B Introduction

B.1 Background to activity/development

Include a brief summary of what the proposed activity is and why it is necessary.

Planning approval has been granted (Wrexham Council references 2019/0341 and 2020/0094) for the construction of three extensions (Extension A (30,190ft² / 2804m²), Extension B (12,204ft² / 1134m²) and Extension C (1752ft² / 163m²)) to two industrial warehouse buildings with additional parking, service yard and hard-landscaping.

As stated in the *Design and Access Statement* (C4 Projects Limited, 2019) prepared for the site:

The approved development represents a significant improvement for the operations of the occupier, promoting modern, in demand employment floorspace that fulfils known requirements for local industries. The size, location and materials chosen for the proposed extensions limit the visual impact and as such complement the existing high quality modern unit. Care has been taken to limit the impact on the existing ecological mitigation zone.

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

Please ensure sufficient detail is provided on the proposed works e.g. construction of buildings, roads, fences etc. Include current status of planning permission or other consents (if applicable) and any outstanding conditions/reserved matters. Include timescales and order of work.

Planning consent has been approved (Wrexham Council references 2019-0431 and 2020/0094) for the following:

Erection of three extensions (A to C) to two existing industrial warehouse buildings with additional parking, service yard and hard-landscaping.

Construction will comprise excavation of square footings (1m²) to receive the steel frame. The footings will be excavated and infilled within a 24 hour period. Once the steel frame is installed the cladding on the elevation walls and the roof will be added.

With the exception of the smaller extension (Extension C / 1752ft²) to the southern elevation of the building and to create the yard to the west of Extension A, all machinery will operate on the existing

hard-standing surface. At Extension C it will be necessary to remove a small area (0.04ha) of close mown amenity grassland to enable construction. To construct the yard around Extension A 0.016ha of coarse grassland will be removed.

The priority is the installation of the steel frame and cladding. Once completed the internal area will be worked in. Following on from this the external areas of hard-standing around the margins of the extensions will be formed.

Excavation of Pond 1 (GCN breeding pond) to increase capacity by 95m³. Works at the pond will be confined to November to January inclusive.

Works are scheduled to commence in Spring 2021 and all works are estimated to take 26 months (i.e. completed by summer 2023).

B.3 Actions requiring licensing

E.g. disturb, capture, translocate, damage or destroy breeding site or resting place (terrestrial and/or aquatic), kill. Briefly explain why these actions are necessary.

Exclusion of GCN from the operational construction site with the use of one-way temporary amphibian fencing (TAF). The one-way TAF is required to separate the construction activities from the habitats used by GCN to minimise the risk of harm.

Permanent removal (preceded by destructive search) of 0.04ha of terrestrial habitat (close mown amenity grassland) located 97 metres from Pond 1 to facilitate Extension C as this extension unavoidably encroaches over an area of short grassland.

Permanent removal of preceded by destructive search of 0.016ha of terrestrial habitat (coarse grassland) located 10 metres from Pond 1 to enable the extension of hard-standing yard / car parking to the north-west of Extension A. Extension A does not affect any habitats suitable for use by GCN but the requirement for a 10 metre wide hard-standing area adjacent to the building will result in the unavoidable loss.

If GCN are detected during the installation and removal of the TAF and during the destructive searches at the three areas of grassland to be removed then translocation to the Ecological Mitigation Zone around Pond 1 will need to be licensed.

Temporary disturbance of aquatic habitats at Pond 1 and temporary damage and disturbance (followed by reinstatement) of terrestrial habitat (grassland) as Pond 1 is excavated to a larger capacity and a new overflow is installed (a larger capacity (increase of 95m³) is needed to accommodate the larger water volume generated by the extended roofs).

C Survey and site assessment

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

Provide records from local environmental records centres, predictive modelling, local herpetile groups, previous survey work by the applicant or others. Include records from within 2km.

Consultation of Cofnod to inform the *Ecological Survey and Assessment* prepared for the site in May 2019 (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, May 2019) (Annex K.1) reported the following records within a 2 kilometre radius of the site:

A total of 132 GCN records, dated between 1992 and 2018, the closest of which is 80m from the site.

The closest record to the site is dated 1992 and lies 80 metres from the site boundary and 95 metres north of Pond 1. One record dated 2007 lies 500 metres from the site, and all further records lie beyond 500 metres of the site boundary.

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

As reported in the *Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, May 2019) (Annex K.1):

The site has no statutory designation for nature conservation.

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation within a 2 kilometre radius of the site.

Statutory designated sites within a 10 kilometre radius comprise (with site notified for GCN in **bold**):

Site	Distance and Direction from Site
Sontley Marsh SSSI	3 kilometres to the south-west
River Dee SSSI, overlapping with the River Dee and Bala Lake Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	4 kilometres to the east
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 (Wales) Ramsar and Vicarage Moss SSSI	4.5 kilometres to the north
Marford Quarry SSSI	6 kilometres to the north
Gatewen Marsh SSSI	6 kilometres to the north-west
Johnstown Newt Sites SAC and Stryt Las a'r Hafod SSSI	6.1 kilometres to the south-west
Llay Bog SSSI	7.5 kilometres to the north-west
Chwarel Signret SSSI	7 kilometres to the north
Cloy Brook Pastures SSSI	7 kilometres to the south
Coedwig Ffosil Brymbo Fossil Forest	8.3 kilometres to the north-west
Shell Brook Pastures SSSI	9.7 kilometres to the south

C.3 Objectives of the survey

E.g. to determine presence/absence of all sub-populations of great crested newts likely to be affected, an estimate of population size and their usage of site (e.g. breeding, hibernation, and foraging).

Habitat Suitability Index assessment and assessment of suitability of terrestrial habitats at the site for use by GCN carried out in April 2019.

Then eDNA GCN presence / absence of GCN at Pond 1 (2019), followed by a population size class assessment survey at Pond 1 (2019).

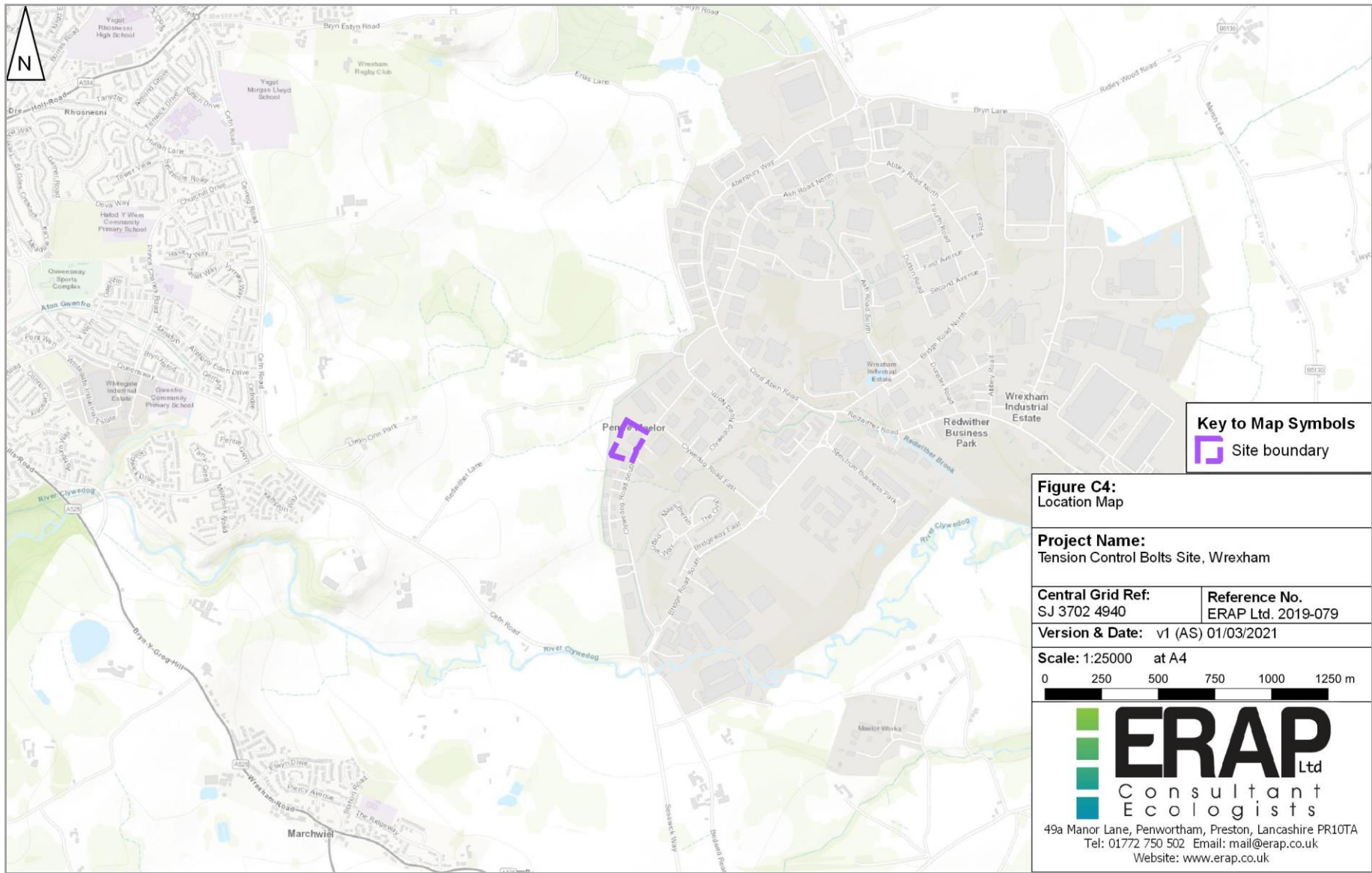
No access to Ponds 2 to 6 within the 500 metre radius of the site.

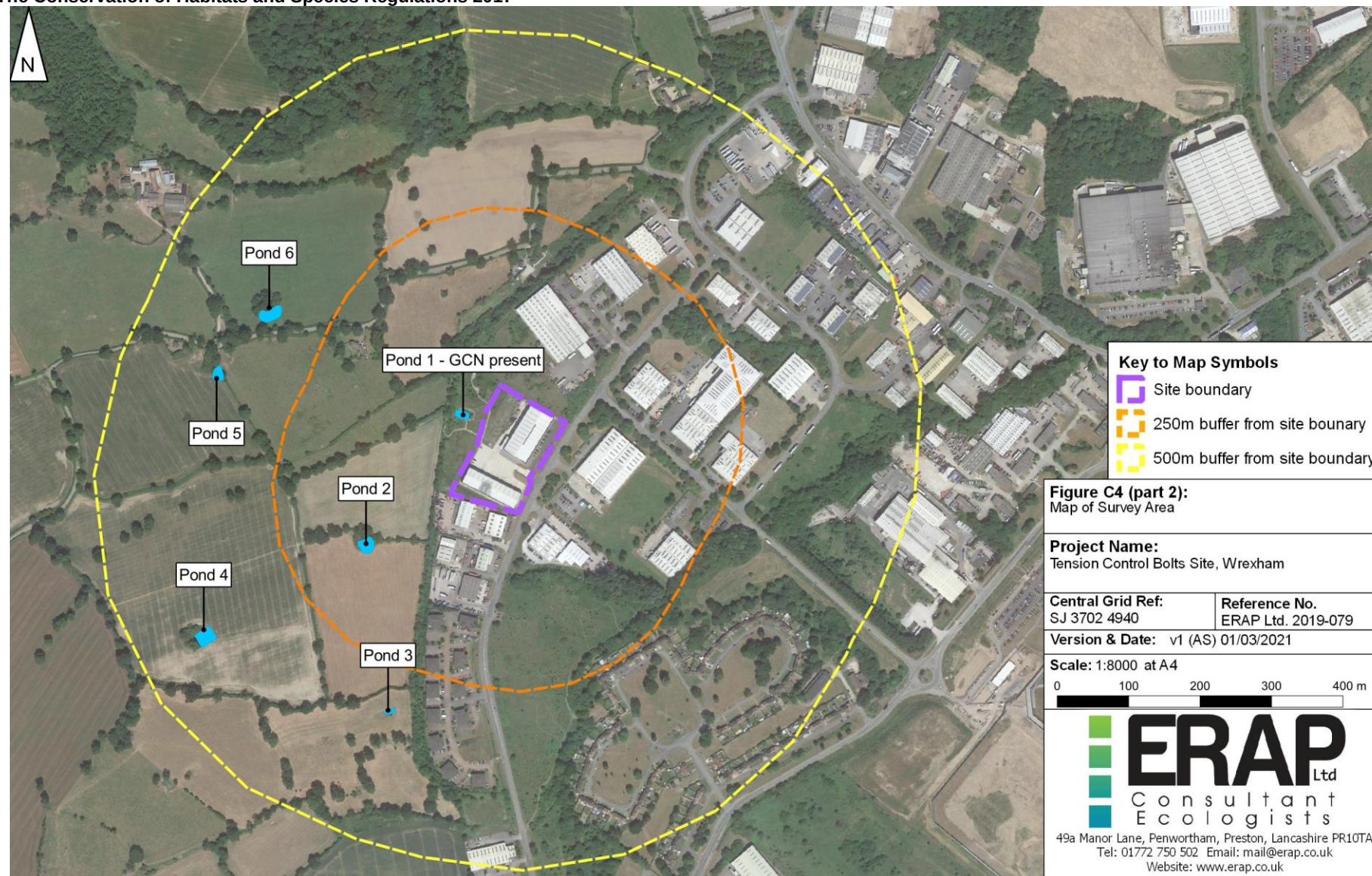
C.4 Scaled plan/map of survey area

This should be of appropriate scale and orientation with integral or separate location map at 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scale and aerial photographs.

Figure C4: Location Map and **Figure C4 (part 2): Map of Survey Area** inserted below.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017





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

This should be based on day-time visits (to include description of site and habitat relevant to great crested newt ecology). Include annotated photographs if applicable.

As confirmed in the Ecological Survey and Assessment report (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, May 2019), refer to Annex K.1:

The approximately 1.5 hectare site lies within an existing industrial estate and comprises two industrial units with associated hard standing, crushed hard standing with sparse colonising vegetation, amenity grassland and unmanaged coarse grassland.

The northern, southern and eastern site boundaries are defined by fencing, beyond which lie further industrial units. The western site boundary is defined by the edge of the hard standing and the north-western elevation of Building 1, beyond which lies unmanaged coarse grassland and Pond 1.

Refer to Phase 1 Habitat Survey map appended at Annex K.1.

Vegetation Colonising Crushed Hard Standing

The crushed hard standing adjacent to the north-west elevation of Building 1 (Photos 1 and 2) supports sparse colonising vegetation which is characterised by locally abundant Moss species, Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Annual Meadow-grass (*Poa annua*), Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*).

Areas of concrete hard standing within the site do not support any colonising vegetation (Photos 3 and 4).

Amenity Grassland

The amenity grassland within the site is short mown (Photos 5 and 6).

The vegetation is characterised by constant and abundant Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), frequent Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) with occasional Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), Creeping Buttercup and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*).

Coarse Grassland

The coarse grassland within the site is unmanaged and tussocky (Photo 7).

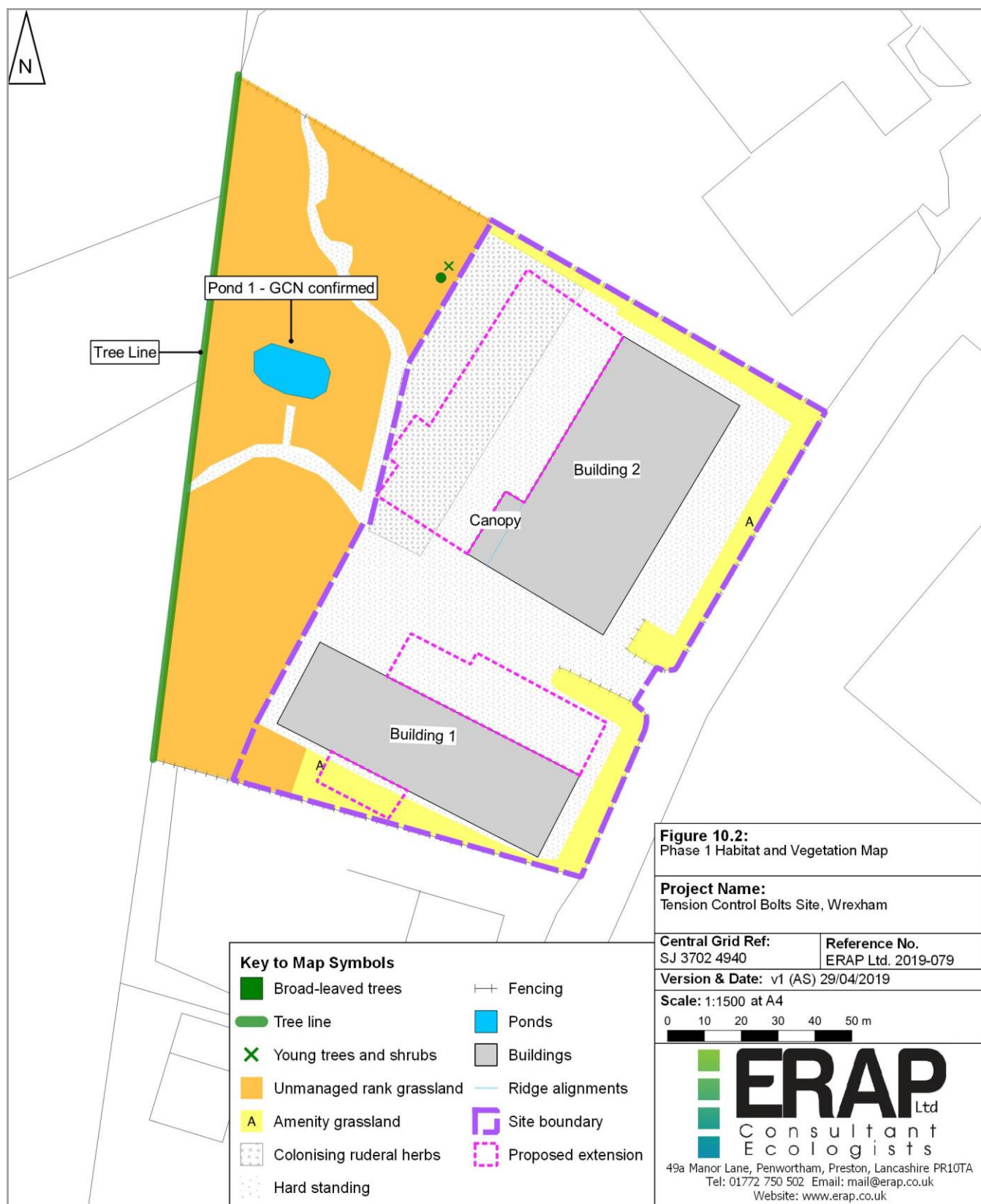
The vegetation is characterised by abundant Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*) and Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*) with frequent Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) and occasional Daisy, Creeping Buttercup, Dandelion and White Clover.

Invasive Plant Species

No invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) is present at the site.

Figure 10.2, inserted below presents a Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site.

The conditions at the site, as described in April 2019, remain similar in Spring 2021.



Photographs



Photo 1: Vegetation colonising compacted hard standing (facing north-east)



Photo 2: Vegetation colonising compacted hard standing (facing south-west)



Photo 3: Hard standing with colonising vegetation beyond (facing north-west)



Photo 4: Hard standing (facing north-east)



Photo 5: Amenity grassland south of Building 1 (facing west)



Photo 6: Amenity grassland south of Building 1 (facing west)



Photo 7: Coarse grassland south of Building 1 (facing west)



Photo 8: Hard standing and northern aspect of Building 1 (facing south-east)



Photo 9: Hard standing and northern aspect of Building 1 (facing west)



Photo 10: Interior of Building 1 showing northern aspect (facing south-east)



Photo 11: Interior of Building 1 showing southern aspect (facing west)



Photo 12: Hard standing, colonising vegetation and western aspect of Building 2 (facing east)



Photo 13: Interior of Building 2 showing western aspect (facing north-east)



Photo 14: Interior of Building 2 showing western aspect (facing north-east)



Photo 15: Pond 1 (facing north-east)



Photo 16: Pond 1 (facing west)

C.6 Field survey(s).

Include survey method (night counts, bottle trapping, egg surveys, site inspections), timings (day/evening), weather conditions (wind, rain, air and water temperature – tabulated for multiple survey visits), personnel involved (provide individual licence numbers, if held) and details of experience/competence in this type of work, and equipment used (type and power of torch). Also record any occurrence of non-native invasive plant species or fish, and structures or features that may cause incidental capture or killing, e.g. gully pots. Also include any constraints and justifications for departures from best practice.

Table C.6: Field Survey Method Information

Survey Method	Date	Timings	Weather Conditions	Equipment	Fish	Personnel	Experience / Competence
Bottle trapping	15/05/2019	A.M site visit	9°C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), dry	25 bottle traps		Jordan Prendergast	Works carried out under Victoria Burrows' NRW Licence Number S086006/1 (valid until 31st March 2021). Jordan is an experienced GCN surveyor. Holds a Natural England survey licenbce (Level 1) 2016-25809-CLS-CLS. The assistants worked under the direct supervision of the accredited agent.
Bottle trapping	16/05/2019	A.M site visit	7 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	25 bottle traps		Assisted by Joanna Dodd and Joseph Cooper	
Bottle trapping	17/05/2019	A.M site visit	9 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), scattered showers	25 bottle traps			
Bottle trapping	23/05/2019	A.M site visit	10 °C, light air (Beaufort scale 1), dry	23 bottle traps			
Bottle trapping	30/05/2019	A.M site visit	15 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	23 bottle traps			
Bottle trapping	07/06/2019	A.M site visit	9 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	22 bottle traps			
Torchlight	14/05/2019	Evening	9 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), dry	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower			
Torchlight	15/05/2019	Evening	7 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower			
Torchlight	16/05/2019	Evening	9 °C gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower	Present		
Torchlight	22/05/2019	Evening	10 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), dry	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower			
Torchlight	29/05/2019	Evening	15 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower	Present		
Torchlight	06/06/2019	Evening	9 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), scattered showers	Clulite CLU10: 1 mil candlepower			
Egg search	14/05/2019	Early evening	9 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), dry	n/a			
Egg search	15/05/2019	Early evening	7 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	n/a			
Egg search	16/05/2019	Early evening	9 °C gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	n/a			
Egg search	22/05/2019	Early evening	10 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), dry	n/a			
Egg search	29/05/2019	Early evening	15 °C, gentle breeze (Beaufort scale 3), dry	n/a			
Egg search	06/06/2019	Early evening	9 °C, light breeze (Beaufort scale 2), scattered showers	n/a			

C.7 Survey Results.

Summarise findings in table form (if appropriate); provide clear, annotated and cross-referenced maps/plans/photographs to show locations of breeding sites, and habitat maps. Raw data to be appended.

Habitat Suitability Index Assessment at Pond 1

Pond 1 lies within the wider site of the Tension Control Bolts Site, 25 metres west of the proposed development area at the site (Photos 15 and 16).

The pond is an attenuation pond which lies within an area of unmanaged coarse grassland. The results of the HSI assessment of the pond are given below.

Table C.7a: Habitat Suitability Index Assessment for Pond 1

Criteria	Description	Pond 1	Score ¹
SI ₁	Location	A, optimal	1.0
SI ₂	Pond Area	100m ²	0.1
SI ₃	Permanence	Sometimes dries	0.5
SI ₄	Water Quality	Moderate	0.67
SI ₅	Shade	0%	1.0
SI ₆	Waterfowl	Minor impact	0.67
SI ₇	Fish	Absent	1.0
SI ₈	Pond count ²	15	1.0
SI ₉	Terrestrial habitat	Moderate	0.67
SI ₁₀	Macrophyte cover	0%	0.3
Assessment Result:		Below average	0.58

¹Calculated by $(SI_1 \times SI_2 \times SI_3 \times SI_4 \times SI_5 \times SI_6 \times SI_7 \times SI_8 \times SI_9 \times SI_{10})^{1/10}$
²Ponds within an unobstructed 1 kilometre radius

Assessment of Terrestrial Habitats

The terrestrial habitats within the majority of the area to be affected by the development proposals are considered to be of negligible suitability for use by terrestrial (i.e. foraging and sheltering) great crested newt, as they are composed of compacted hard standing with only sparse vegetation cover, and short-mown amenity grassland.

The coarse and unmanaged grassland in the Ecological Mitigation Zone is considered to provide more suitable habitats for foraging and sheltering great crested newt.

GCN eDNA Presence / Absence Survey 2019

The GCN eDNA presence / absence survey at Pond 1 was positive for GCN, refer to Annex K.1.

Population Size Class Assessment

The survey confirmed the following:

Table C.7b: Summary of GCN Survey Data

Survey Method	Rep. No.	Date of Result	GCN			TOTAL
			M	F	Im	
Bottle Trap	1	15/05/2019	2	2	0	4
	2	16/05/2019	3	4	0	7
	3	17/05/2019	5	7	0	12
	4	23/05/2019	3	6	0	9
	5	30/05/2019	2	3	0	5
	6	07/06/2019	4	4	0	8
Torchlight	1	14/05/2019	5	7	0	12
	2	15/05/2019	13	11	0	24
	3	16/05/2019	10	7	0	17
	4	22/05/2019	6	6	0	12
	5	29/05/2019	4	5	0	9
	6	06/06/2019	2	11	0	13
Egg Search	1	14/05/2019	0			
	2	15/05/2019	0			
	3	16/05/2019	0			
	4	22/05/2019	0			
	5	29/05/2019	0			
	6	06/06/2019	Present			

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

Provide count/estimate of great crested newt numbers, status of site (e.g. breeding, foraging, resting or hibernating), population significance, constraints on survey (e.g. time of year, cold weather, access problems – justify as necessary).

The peak count of 24 GCN on 15th May 2019 is a 'medium' population size class of GCN (between 11 and 100 GCN) at Pond 1

Pond 1 is a confirmed breeding pond as eggs were detected.

No constraints on the surveys were encountered – it is recognised that the surveys were clustered in mid-May but as the number of GCN detected is similar throughout the surveyed period and this is an 'easy' pond to survey it is considered that the data provide an accurate account of the GCN status at the site.

Terrestrial habitats (i.e. coarse grassland) bordering Pond 1 are favourable for use by GCN.

Terrestrial habitats within the operational Tension Control Bolts site are of negligible suitability owing to the high cover of hard-standing and absence of features that would provide shelter.

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

E.g. artificial light, restricting access to feeding or breeding sites, sheltering habitats and dispersal corridors.

Risk of disturbance of GCN sheltering close to construction area by operation of machinery but assessed to be minimal.

Trenches / holes will not be left open overnight so no risk of GCN falling in trenches or holes, for example.

Disturbance of Pond 1 (breeding pond) during excavation to increase capacity.

D.2 Long-term impacts: site modification

E.g. destruction or damage of part of breeding site or preferential sheltering/foraging habitats Note that impacts can be positive or negative as this is in absence of mitigation.

Proposals will result in loss of 0.04ha of short mown amenity grassland located 97 metres from Pond 1 (to facilitate Extensions B and C) and loss of 0.016ha of coarse grassland within 25 metres of Pond 1 to extend the hard-standing around Extension A.

Temporary disturbance of aquatic habitats at Pond 1 and temporary damage and disturbance (followed by reinstatement) of terrestrial habitat (grassland) as Pond 1 is excavated to a larger capacity and a new overflow is installed (a larger capacity (increase of 95m³) is needed to accommodate the larger water volume generated by the extended roofs).

Negative impact.

D.3 Long-term impacts: site loss

Impact on different sub populations to be taken into account at 2km, 10km, local, regional, and national level.

Impacts concentrated at the site level. Small scale proposals over unsuitable habitats are very unlikely to have a negative effect on GCN beyond the site and zone of influence of Pond 1.

D.4 Long-term impacts: fragmentation and isolation

E.g. loss of ponds or terrestrial habitat including stepping stones and linear features such as hedges, tree lines, severance of migration routes by roads.

No fragmentation or isolation impacts predicted in the absence of mitigation.

D.5 Post-development interference impacts

E.g. gully pots or other features that could effect incidental capture or killing, predation, disturbance, including those associated with recreation and human pressure,.

Extension proposals will result in increased activities such vehicle movements over the yard but will not affect habitats suitable for use by GCN.

In the absence of mitigation / use of appropriate products the Aco M150D channel drain to be installed at the boundary between the hard-standing extension at Extension A and the Ecological Mitigation Zone may pose as a hazard to GCN.

In the absence of mitigation, the 125mm high kerbstones to be installed at the rear of the extended hard-standing at Extension A may obstruct GCN movements back to the Ecological Mitigation Zone.

D.6 Predicted scale of impact

Include impacts on species status at the site, 2km, 10km, local, county, regional and country levels.

Partial destruction of a small area (0.016ha) of immediate terrestrial habitat is a medium scale of impact in accordance with the table on page 34 of the GCNMG (2001) at the site level.

Partial destruction of 0.04ha of intermediate terrestrial habitat is a low scale of impact in accordance with the table on page 34 of the GCNMG (2001) at the site level.

Temporary disturbance of a GCN breeding pond and temporary disturbance of terrestrial habitats around Pond is a low scale of impact in accordance with the table on page 34 of the GCNMG (2001) at the site level.

Overall, as the area of immediate terrestrial habitat to be affected is small (0.016ha) a **low scale of impact** is assessed overall.

Impacts concentrated at the site level. Small scale proposals over unsuitable habitats are very unlikely to have a negative effect on GCN beyond the site and zone of influence of Pond 1.

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

Please identify which works will be undertaken or supervised by a licensed ecologist

Works to be undertaken / supervised by the licensed ecologist comprise:

- a. Hand search and checks and supervision during installation of one-way TAF;
- b. Hand search and destructive search of the 0.04ha short amenity grassland immediately prior to removal;
- c. Strimming of the 0.016ha coarse grassland to be removed;
- d. Hand search and destructive search of the 0.016ha of coarse grassland immediately prior to removal;
- e. Strimming and hand search of terrestrial habitats to be temporarily disturbed during use of an excavator to excavate Pond 1;
- f. Search of any other features within the construction zone for amphibians to minimise risk of isolation during works;
- g. Careful translocation of any amphibians found during works at points a to f to suitable habitats in the Ecological Mitigation Zone;
- h. Construction of one hibernaculum;
- i. Maintenance of the TAF;
- j. Removal of the TAF and search;
- k. Guidance of excavator during excavation of Pond 1;
- l. Approval and inspection of installation of use of a mesh / grating at the Aco M150D drain channel, refer to Annex K.3; and
- m. Inspection of the installation of four 1800mm long sections of dropped / battered kerbstones at the eastern boundary, refer to Annex K.3

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

Timings, effort, methods to be employed, reasonable avoidance schemes or measures for great crested newts (fencing, fence maintenance, logging captures, inspection and maintenance of fences), locations of receptor sites etc. Include diagrams to show locations of draft and exclusion fencing, pitfall trap design and trap density. State if site based weather stations are used to demonstrate appropriate trapping conditions

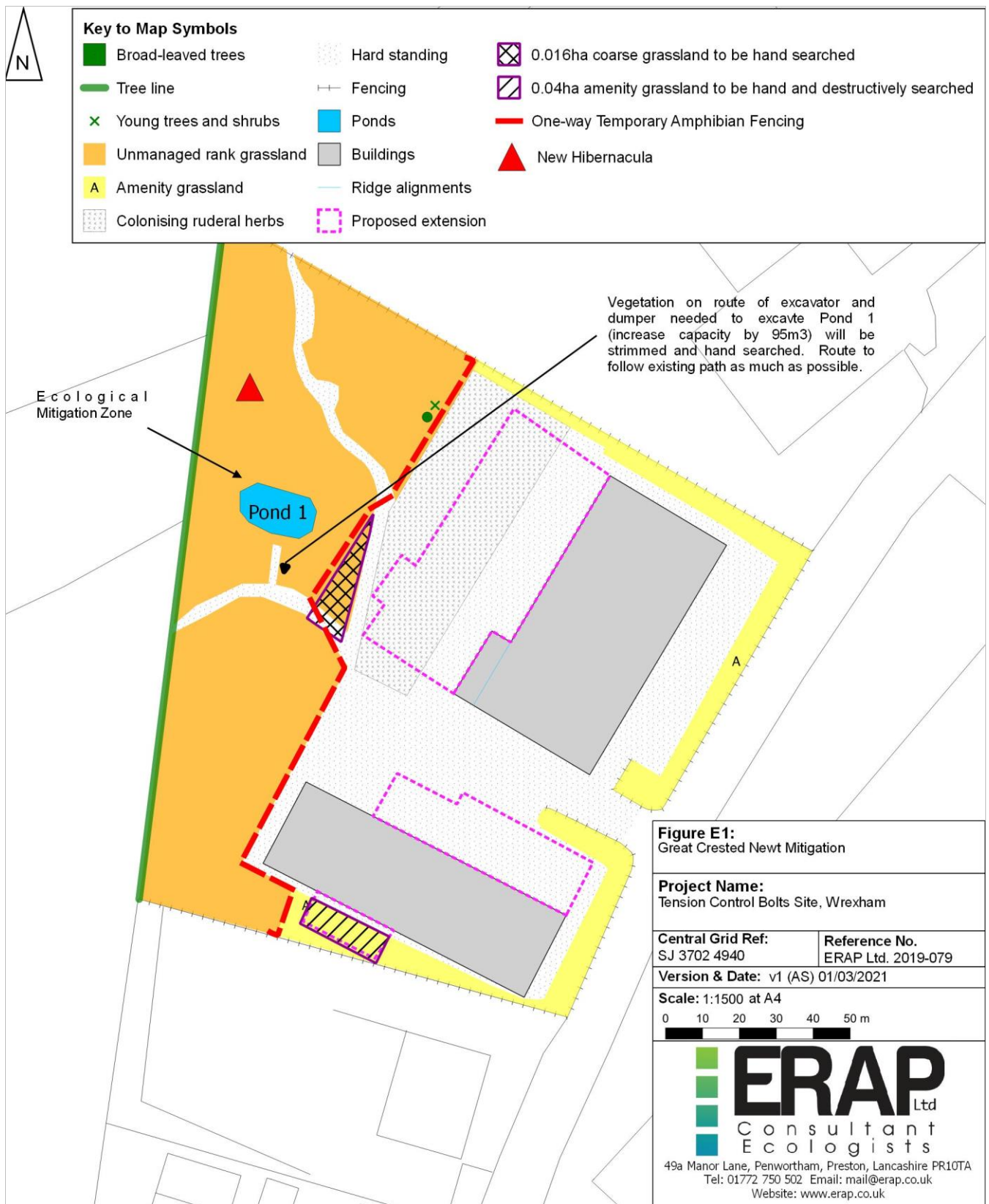
Refer to **Figure E1**, below.

Based on small area of habitat to be affected - no active trapping with pitfall traps to be carried out (as agreed with Wrexham Council ecologist).

Rather the works will comprise:

- a. Toolbox talk to be provided to all relevant contractors;
- b. Hand and destructive search of the 0.04ha amenity grassland at Extension B and C.
- c. 0.016ha section of coarse grassland to be affected by extension of hard-standing around Extension A to be strimmed to a height of 100mm (no lower). Area to be hand searched for amphibians and then removed (after a second / lower strim if needed).
- d. Any detected amphibians to be carefully placed in a bucket and translocated immediately to suitable terrestrial habitats the Ecological Mitigation Zone on the opposite side of the one-way TAF.
- e. Prior to the construction of the hibernaculum the grassland will be strimmed to a height of 100mm height and hand searched for amphibians. Once area and route for access is clear of amphibians the hibernacula will be constructed.
- f. Strimming and search of the vegetation along the route of the excavator to be used to excavate Pond 1;
- g. Excavation works at Pond 1 to be carried out between November and January (outside the amphibian breeding season).

Hand and destructive search will only be carried out outside dormancy period and during favourable weather conditions for amphibian activity (i.e. temperatures above 5°C) and no frozen ground conditions.



E.2 Great Crested Newt habitat

E.2.1 Receptor site modification, enhancement or creation.

Include details of new breeding sites and resting places e.g pond creation- design, layout, number, planting schemes, water supply and hydrology regimes, terrestrial habitat diversification or creation – design, habitat type, planting schemes, provenance of imported plants, consideration of biosecurity impacts.

One large (2 metres by 2 metres) hibernaculum to be constructed to the north-west of Pond 1. Hibernaculum to be constructed in accordance with Figure 3 of the GCNMG (2001) (but larger). Refer to **Figure E1**.

Materials to be imported must comply with the requirements of the *Biosecurity Risk Assessment_27.02.21*

E.2.2 Temporary loss of breeding sites, resting places

Provide details of all reasonable avoidance measures to be undertaken throughout the period of works

No areas (aquatic or terrestrial) will be temporarily lost.

E.2.3 Destruction of existing breeding sites, resting places

Full project programme including dewatering schemes (including filter specifications), programmes of terrestrial searches, fencing location and construction, transport methodologies, void infilling.

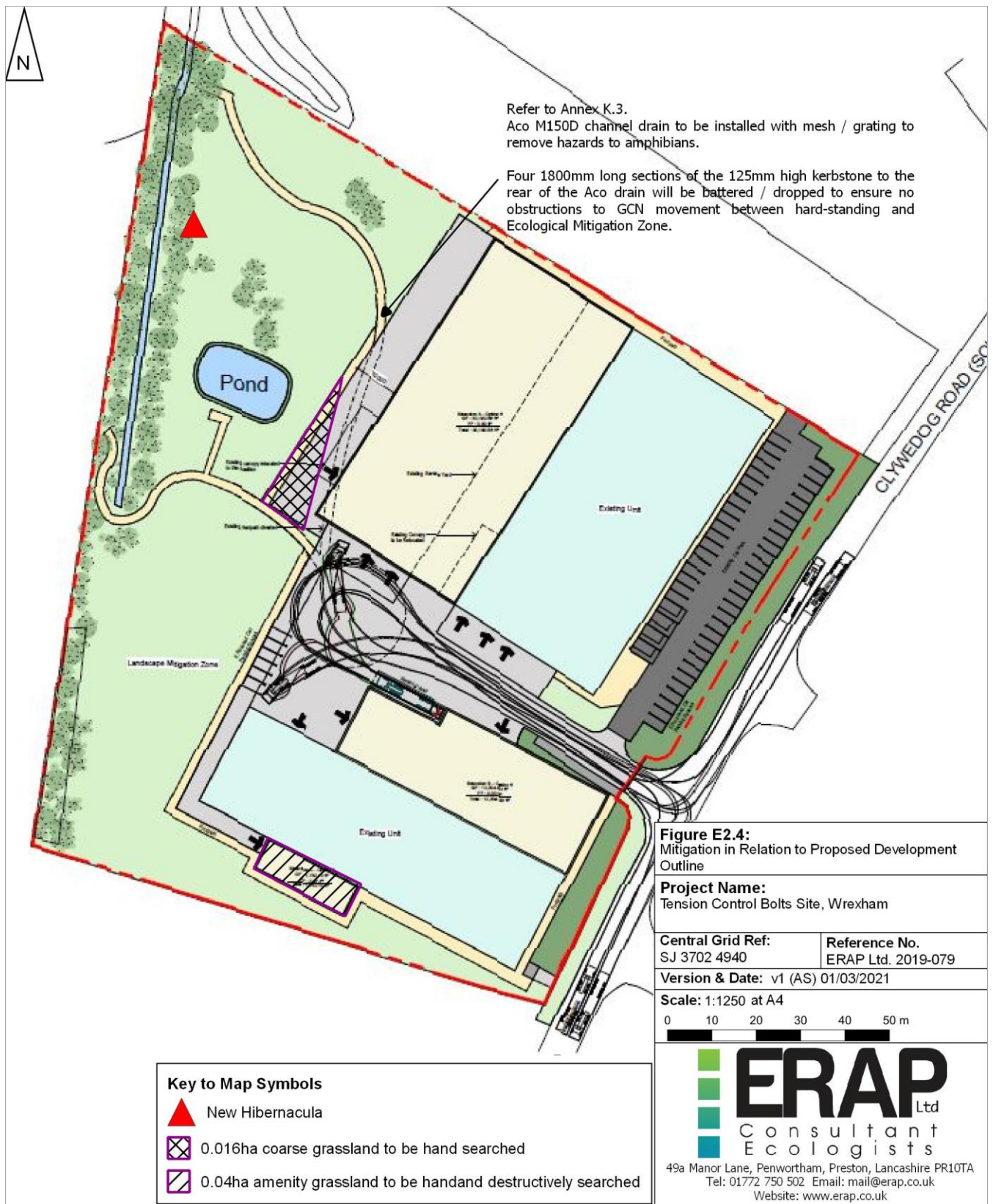
Reasonable avoidance measures to be applied will comprise:

- a. Toolbox talk to be provided to all relevant contractors;
- b. Hand and destructive search of the 0.04ha amenity grassland at Extension B and C.
- c. 0.016 section of coarse grassland to be affected by extension of hard-standing around Extension A to be strimmed to a height of 100mm (no lower). Area to be hand searched for amphibians and then removed (after a second / lower strim if needed).
- d. Any detected amphibians to be carefully placed in a bucket and translocated immediately to suitable terrestrial habitats the Ecological Mitigation Zone on the opposite side of the one-way TAF.
- e. Prior to the construction of the hibernaculum the grassland will be strimmed to a height of 100mm height and hand searched for amphibians. Once area and route for access is clear of amphibians the hibernacula will be constructed.

E.2.4 Scaled maps/plans

To show proposals for mitigation outlined above in relation to existing and proposed habitat features and in relation to the proposed development outline. A GIS data layer may be included with your application to illustrate locations of habitats in E.2.1 to E.2.3

Refer to **Figure E2.4** below.



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

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

This may require appointment of an external auditing scheme including audit key performance indicators, for medium, large scale or long term schemes e.g. residential development, pipeline construction or maintenance, way leaves for utilities, quarrying and mineral extraction.

Separate auditing scheme to be arranged and required by Condition 9 of the planning consent.

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

Not applicable all works will be carried out within the site and at land under the same ownership.

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

Do not include features likely to result in incidental capture or killing

The Aco drain will be installed with a mesh / grating to avoid any hazards associated with GCN entering the drainage system.

The kerbs at the boundary between the extended hard-standing and the Ecological Mitigation Zone will accommodate 4 x 1800mm long sections of dropped / battered kerbs to ensure any GCN that venture on to the hard-standing are not obstructed by the 125mm high kerbs and are able to return to the Ecological Mitigation Zone.

Refer to Annex K.3.

No additional impacts / hazards identified.

E.3.4 Provide sufficient resources

To ensure effective site management and associated wardening and monitoring where relevant.

Please refer to the *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_March 2021*.

E.4 Mitigation contingencies

Describe any contingency proposals including circumstances when the contingencies will be instigated.

E.5 Biosecurity risk assessment

Consider presence of non-native species and disease on site and actions to be undertaken that will prevent their spread onto or off the site

Please refer to the Bio-security Risk Assessment_27.02.21.

F Post-development site safeguard

F.1 Habitat/site management and maintenance

Include ongoing land management proposals, details of who will be responsible for management and maintenance, on going running costs, site/structure ownership and monitoring development of new habitats.

Please refer to the *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_ March 2021*.

The site owner will be responsible for management and maintenance.

Letter of commitment to *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_ March 2021* to be provided by site owner / operator (C4 Projects Ltd to arrange)

F.2 Population monitoring

Include details of monitoring effort and timing, personnel involved and equipment to be used.

No long-term monitoring required for a medium population class size and a low impact (in accordance with Table on page 56 of the GCNMG (2001).

Pond is registered on Wales Great Crested Newt Monitoring Scheme and is identified as P01 in Wrexham Industrial Estate – West.

F.3 Post-development mitigation contingencies

Describe the action that you will take if monitoring results are unfavourable.

Please refer to the *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_ March 2021*.

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

As appropriate e.g. Section 106 Agreement, to include details of who will undertake the work and reporting details, other covenants, contractual agreements or wardening schemes.

Please refer to the *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_ March 2021*.

G Timetable of works

Include timings of all capture, development activities and mitigation measures, monitoring and other post development works

Date	Activity/ Task	Responsibility
March 2021	Arrange for discharge of relevant conditions	C4 Projects Ltd and relevant contractors
March / April 2021	Apply for an obtain NRW licence	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd
Spring 2021	Install one-way TAF along interface between working area and Ecological Mitigation Zone (as per Figure E1)	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd / contractor appointed by the client
	Toolbox talk to be provided to all relevant contractors. Hand and destructive search of the amenity grassland at Extension B and C. 0.016ha of coarse grassland to be affected by extension of hard-standing around Extension A to be trimmed to a height of 100mm (no lower). Area to be hand searched for amphibians and then removed (after a second / lower trim if needed).	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd

	Any detected amphibians to be carefully placed in a bucket and translocated immediately to suitable terrestrial habitats the Ecological Mitigation Zone on the opposite side of the one-way TAF.	
	Vegetation removal and site strip to be carried out.	Contractor
	Construction of one large (2 metres by 2 metres) hibernaculum to the north-west of Pond 1, refer to Figure E2.4 . Works to be preceded by the strimming of the grassland in the area to 100mm height, followed by hand search. Once area and route for access is clear of amphibians the hibernacula will be constructed.	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd and contractor
September 2021	Strim vegetation on route of excavator to access Pond 1	Contractor
November 2021 to February 2022	Excavate 95m3 of material from Pond 1. Arisings to be loaded on to a dumper and removed	Contractor under supervision of licensed ecologist
During construction	One-way TAF to be maintained throughout all works. Damage to be attended to immediately. Installation of mesh / grating at Aco M150D channel drain, as shown at Annex K.3. Installation of 4 x 1800mm long sections of battered / dropped kerbs as shown at Annex K.3.	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd and client / contractor
End of construction (Summer 2023)	One-way TAF to be removed under supervision of licensed ecologist and outside of dormancy period	ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd

H Land Ownership – Mitigation Site/Compensation Site

H.1 Mitigation Site/Compensation Site Ownership

If mitigation is to be undertaken at a location not owned by the applicant, you must provide the written consent of the relevant land owner(s). You must also provide details of how the mitigation is to be maintained in the long term (e.g. a legal agreement, transfer of legal interest).

Not applicable.

Letter of commitment to *Long-term Management, Surveillance and Wardening Plan_ March 2021* to be provided by site owner / operator (C4 Projects Ltd to arrange)

H.2 Mitigation Site/Compensation Ownership post construction

If the ownership of the mitigation site will change after construction please confirm the identity of the prospective owners/occupiers together with timescales associated with transfer of occupancy or other forms of legal interest. You must also provide details of how the mitigation is to be maintained in the long term (e.g. a legal agreement).

Not applicable the site will remain in the same ownership post-construction.

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	
<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>			☐
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS			
Signature of the Ecologist		Date	27.02.21
<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>			☐
Full name in BLOCK LETTERS		VICTORIA BURROWS	

J References

Credits for source information.

K Annexes

K.1 Pre-existing survey reports

Annex K.1: Ecological Survey and Assessment (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, May 2019)

K.2 Raw survey data

Annex K.2: Great Crested Newt Survey Raw Data (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, December 2019)

K.3 Additional Information

Annex K.3: Drainage Layout Plan with Annotations (T_19_2265_55-01)