

LAND AT MULSFORD FARM

**GREAT CRESTED NEWT
REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES**

**PLANNING REF P/2017/0799
APP/H6955/A/18/3208119**

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 5

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LAND AT MULSFORD

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

Condition 5 of the planning consent specifies:

Development shall not commence until a scheme of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) in respect of great crested newts has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall thereafter only take place in strict accordance with the RAMs scheme as approved.

1 REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

The aim of these avoidance measures is to eliminate as far as possible the risk of killing, injuring or disturbing GCN.

All of the works being carried out to exclude GCN from the site, including fencing, trapping and translocation, are covered by the NRW development licence.

The RAMS outlined below refer to general works on site prior to and following exclusion of GCN from the working area. If GCN exclusion has been successful, no GCN should be present within the working area. Nevertheless, in order to avoid any residual risk, the following RAMS should be adopted.

Induction of contractors

A toolbox talk will be given to all site personnel in order to make them aware of the possible presence of GCN, how to identify this species and the avoidance measures to be used on site. A paper copy of the avoidance measures will be retained on site together with the contact details of the GCN licensed ecologist.

GCN exclusion

Installation of the GCN exclusion fence will involve some limited ground disturbance, as will installation of bucket traps. Any tall vegetation along the route of the fence should be mown prior to fence erection and the process overseen by the Ecological Clerk of Works.

Timing & duration

Once GCN have been removed, the risk to GCN should be nil. However, the following restrictions will be maintained:

The pre-construction works will only be undertaken between March and October when night time temperatures are above 5°C in order to avoid disturbing hibernating amphibians.

All works should take place during daylight hours when GCN are unlikely to be moving around the area.

Site compound

This will be situated within the fenced area cleared of GCN.

Construction methods and special precautions

All excavations on site will be covered at night or ramps will be provided to allow amphibians to exit excavations. All excavations will be checked for amphibians each morning prior to the re-commencement of works.

All exposed new pipework and drains will be capped at night so as to avoid trapping amphibians.

All excavated materials/waste will be stored in skips or similar and not on the ground where it could be used as a refuge/resting area by amphibians. Alternatively, all waste will be removed from site daily.

Discovery of a great crested newt

If a GCN is discovered at any point during the works all work will cease immediately and the retained licensed ecologist will be contacted for further guidance. Contractors are prohibited from handling GCN.