



EXTENSION AT UNITS 2 AND 3

THE VILLAGE BAKERY LTD

GREAT CRESTED NEWT

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

DATE	ECOLOGIST	APPROVED	VERSION	COMMENTS
22/01/2018	Lucy Boyett	Tim Yardley	V1	

Enfys Report Ref: EE/414/LB

Aelod o Cymdeithas Ymgynghoriaethau Ymddiriedolaethau Natur
A member of the Association of Wildlife Trust Consultancies

Mae Enfys Ecology yn is-gwmni i Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gogledd Cymru
Enfys Ecology is a subsidiary of North Wales Wildlife Trust
Rhif Cwmni / Company Number 2535184



Contents

Contents 2

1.0 Introduction 3

2.0 Site Description.....4

3.0 Conclusion 6

4.0 Legislation.....7

5.0 Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) 7

6.0 Biosecurity Procedures 8

7.0 References 9

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Enfys Ecology Ltd were commissioned by The Village Bakery Ltd to produce Reasonable Avoidance Measures with regards to great crested newts (GCN) (*Triturus cristatus*), for works to build a single storey extension adjoining Unit 2 and 3, Coed Aben Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate.
- 1.2 The Village Bakery Ltd are seeking planning permission to build a single storey extension to the rear of an existing unit, at their Nutrition Site, which will extend out from the existing unit by approx. 5m and will be approx. 18m long. This extension will be built on an area of existing amenity grassland.
- 1.3 Wrexham County Borough is known as a hotspot for GCN and a report by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (Natural Resources Wales, 2017) stated that *"Wrexham County Borough is a stronghold of great crested newts within the UK. The lowland parts of Wrexham have a particularly high density of suitable ponds and the pondscape of northeast Wales has been identified as being of European importance"*.
- 1.4 A large population of GCN is known to be present to the north east of the proposed site: During 2015, Enfys Ecology Ltd carried out GCN surveys of three ponds within an area of broad-leaved woodland approx. 250m to the east of the site and a medium population was recorded. Trapping for GCN was undertaken of the large area of semi-improved grassland to the north of the woodland during 2016 and 2017. During the trapping period, 420 GCN were translocated into the woodland to the south, which constituted a large population.
- 1.5 NRW were consulted regarding the proposed extension and recommended that planning permission should only be granted if the following requirement is met, *"Prior to commencement, the submission and implementation of a great crested newt avoidance scheme undertaken to the satisfaction of the LPA"*. This requirement is fulfilled within this document.
- 1.6 A walkover of the site was undertaken on 16th January 2018 by Rhian Hughes, to observe the habitats present and assess the potential of the proposed works killing, injuring or disturbing GCNs, or destroying any place used for rest or shelter.
- 1.7 GCNs and their habitat are fully protected under both United Kingdom and European Union legislation, including the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended), the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- 1.8 The Reasonable Avoidance Measures in Section 5.0, set out specific working methods and measures to put in place to avoid disturbing or harming GCNs during the construction of the new extension.

- 1.9 It is essential that biosecurity procedures summarised in Section 6.0 are followed at all times by all workers and visitors to site.

2.0 Site Description

- 2.1 The site boundary and area surveyed is shown by the red boundary line in Figure 2.1.

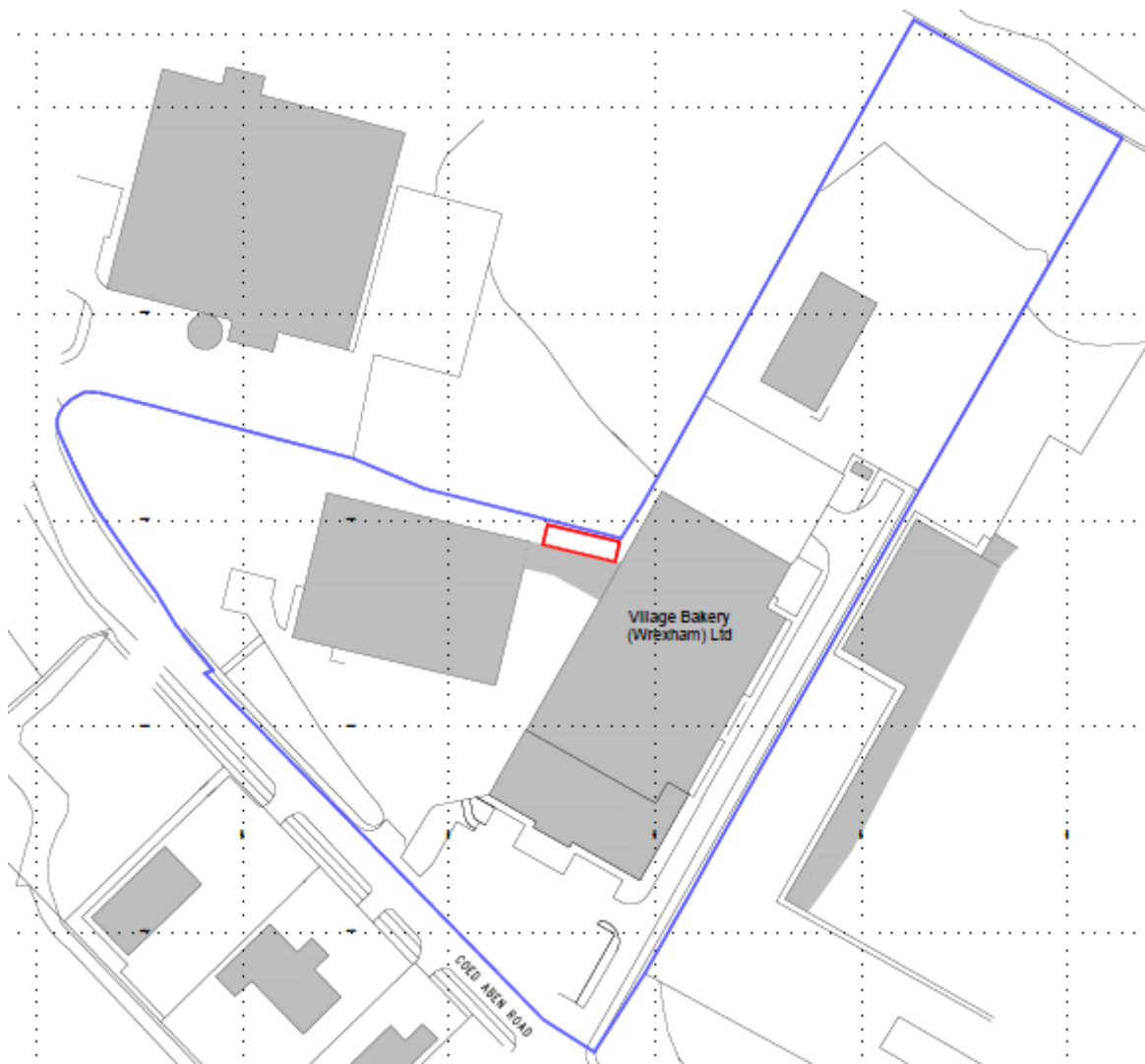


FIGURE 2.1. PROPOSED EXTENSION TO UNIT 2 AND 3 AT THE VILLAGE BAKERY LTD. THE PROPOSED EXTENSION IS SHOWN IN RED AND THE VILLAGE BAKERY LTD OWNED LAND SHOWN IN BLUE

- 2.2 The site is located within the centre of Wrexham Industrial Estate, a large area of industrial units and open grassland with pockets of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.
- 2.3 The proposed extension is to be built on short amenity grassland and a small area of gravel, positioned adjoining the existing unit to the south and the site boundary fencing to the north (Photo 2.1). Beyond the fencing, in a northerly direction, is approx. 2-3m of short amenity

grassland followed by approx. 30m of long semi-improved grassland, leading to a large area of broad-leaved woodland (Photo 2.2).



PHOTO 2.1. AREA OF AMENITY GRASSLAND ON WHICH THE PROPOSED EXTENSION WILL BE BUILT



PHOTO 2.2. BOUNDARY FENCING WITH SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND AND BROAD-LEAVED WOODLAND TO THE NORTH



PHOTO 2.3. AREA OF AMENITY GRASSLAND ON WHICH THE PROPOSED EXTENSION WILL BE BUILT.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 There are three known breeding ponds with a large known population of GCN located approx. 250m to the east of the proposed extension site. Between these ponds and the area of long semi-improved grassland and broad-leaved woodland (suitable GCN habitat) to the north of the site, is a large area of hard standing and buildings. This is likely to reduce the number of GCN within the suitable habitat areas to the north of the proposed site.
- 3.2 The proposed extension is to be built wholly on an area of short amenity grassland and gravel between the existing building to the south and boundary fence to the north. This area is unsuitable habitat for GCN as the amenity grassland is kept short leaving no suitable areas for foraging or shelter. As this is the case, it is not thought that GCN will be present, particularly with there being areas of suitable habitat further to the north.
- 3.3 Taking these factors into consideration, there is a very low risk of GCN being present on site, however, a precautionary approach should be adopted. This will involve following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) set out in Section 5.0 below, which must be followed at all times.

- 3.4 The RAMS below apply only to works on the area of amenity grassland and gravel between the existing building and boundary fencing. If any works outside of the boundary fence or on long grassland are proposed a licence from NRW may be required.

4.0 Legislation

- 4.1 GCNs and their habitat are fully protected under both United Kingdom and European Union legislation, including the Wildlife and countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 4.2 It is an offence to kill, injure or disturb GCNs, or to destroy any place used for rest or shelter by a newt. The GCN is listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, and is also listed on Annexe II and Annexe IV of the EC Habitats Directive.
- 4.3 Common amphibian species (including common frog, common toad, and smooth and palmate newts) have lesser legal protection, under Schedule 5, Section 9 (5) of the WCA 1981 these animals are protected from sale, or transportation for sale.

5.0 Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs)

5.1 *Overview*

- 5.1.1 There is a very low risk of GCN presence on the amenity grassland area between the existing building and the boundary fencing, however, a precautionary approach will be adopted following the Reasonable Avoidance Measures set out below, which must be followed at all times.
- 5.1.2 The measures below should be included in the site inductions for all site workers during the works, and a copy of these measures must be kept on site and accessible to all site workers.

5.2 *During ground works and construction*

- 5.2.1 The following measures must be followed by all site workers including subcontractors, at all times during the works.
- All works, including storage and the movement of plant, must only take place on the area of amenity grassland between the existing building and the boundary fence. The area of long semi-improved grassland outside of the boundary fence, must be regarded as out of bounds, as there is a greater risk of GCN being present within this area.

- All workers to be made aware of the potential presence of amphibians, and must be aware of the procedure to follow if newts are found.
- No works are to be undertaken at night (between dusk and dawn).
- To avoid creating refugia, which may attract GCN to the site, building materials must be stored bagged or on pallets, spaced timber, or otherwise elevated. Bagged materials should remain so until required for use.
- If earth is to be moved and stored on site overnight, it is preferable for it to be stored on an area of hard standing and must be compacted before the end of the day to deter GCN from using it for shelter.
- Any trenches or pits dug should be back filled wherever practical, as soon as possible following the completion of the works in the trench.
- Should leaving pits or trenches open be unavoidable, a suitable escape ramp (such as a plank or branch) must be provided to allow animals to escape the pit.
- At the end of works each day, the site should be inspected by a responsible individual to ensure that the above protocols are being complied with.

5.3 *If GCN are discovered during works*

- 5.3.1 If at any point in the works GCNs are encountered on site, works should stop immediately in the vicinity of the newt(s). A suitably licenced ecologist should be called from Enfy Ecology on 07764897417 (Rhian Hughes) or 07772280975 (Lucy Boyett).
- 5.3.2 A licensed ecologist will visit the site to remove the newt(s) to a safe location, and also check the site and assess whether further newts are likely to be discovered. They will advise on any other measures which should be taken before works can progress.

6.0 Biosecurity Procedures

- 6.1 The following points are a summary of the biosecurity procedures, which must be followed at all times by all workers who visit site.
- 6.2 Prior to accessing the site, and before leaving.
 - All footwear and outerwear must be cleaned to remove any organic material, for example leaves and soil. Clean brushes to be carried for this purpose.

- Following the removal of organic material all footwear must be sprayed or dipped in disinfectant until it runs off. See disinfection procedure, below.
- Mud and other organic material to be cleaned from vehicle tyres, wheels and wheel arches prior to arrival on site.
- Vehicles will keep to established tracks where possible.
- Clean and disinfect tools and equipment before accessing site.
- Minimise visits to the site, carry out all works in one location before moving on, time breaks to avoid having to leave and return to the same locations wherever possible.

Disinfection Procedure:

1. Brush off all debris, plant fragments, and all organic material e.g. soil.
2. Rinse with water.
3. Disinfect by spraying with a solution of Virkon disinfectant, (10mg/ml or as printed instructions, if for example using tablets) until the spray runs off. Boots should be stood in a bucket or other container of solution, especially prior to going on site. Spraying should take place away from vegetation.
4. Leave for at least 1 minute
5. Rinse with clean water, brought to site for this purpose.

Virkon solution should ideally be kept and flushed into a sink, or drain with water. If on site disposal is required the solution should be disposed of on a large hard standing area away from vegetation.

7.0 References

Amphibian and Reptile conservation UK (ARG-UK) (2008). Amphibian Disease Precautions: a guide for UK fieldworkers. Version 1. February 2008. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation UK, See publications section of www.arguk.org.

Countryside Council for Wales (2010) 1422901 EC New Pilot - Great Crested Newts in the UK (Wales contribution)

Froglife (2001)GCN Conservation Handbook

JNCC, (2010), Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit, ISBN 0 86139 636 7

Natural Resources Wales (2014). Using Modelling to Inform Assessments of the Conservation Status of Great Crested Newts.