



Kingdom Ecology

6 Warwick Road • Chorlton
Manchester • M21 0AU

077 998 44249

enquiries@kingdomecology.com

www.kingdomecology.com

Company No 07524016

11 October 2016

P /2017/0134

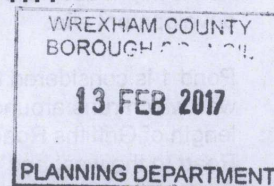
To whom it may concern,

**GREAT CRESTED NEWT METHOD STATEMENT FOR BOOZEY FIELD,
OFF GRIFFITHS ROAD, GWERSYLLT, WREXHAM, LL11 4YF.**

Planning Reference P/2015/0790

Introduction

Condition 20 of the above Planning Permission requires that:



20- A great crested newt method statement shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority as part of the reserved matters application. The development shall be carried out in strict accordance with the method statement as is approved.

A suitable statement of Method statement of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) has been devised by Richard Roe (BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, CEnv) of Kingdom Ecology. Richard is a professional ecologist with over 15 years of experience and is a licensed great crested newt worker (NRW License Number 56898).



Potential Great Crested Newt Presence

Two potential great crested newt breeding ponds had been identified by Wrexham County Borough within 500m of the study site.

Pond 1 is located within the grounds of Stansty Park at grid reference SJ 319 523 and is located approximately 130m south of the study site. Pond 1 is known to support great crested newt.

Pond 2 is supposedly located within the Gwersylt housing estate at grid reference SJ 318 529 which lies approximately 400m to the north of the study site.

Pond 2 could not be found during field surveys nor is the pond identifiable from aerial photographs of the site. The pond may be present within a garden of one of the residential property but this could not be determined during survey. There is also the possibility that the pond no longer exists.

Field surveys undertaken in 2015 examined potential terrestrial dispersal routes that newts might use from Pond 1 and the hypothetical Pond 2 to the proposed development site.

Pond 1 is considered to be isolated from the proposed development site by a stone wall which runs around the boundary of the Stansty Estate. The wall runs along the length of Griffiths Road along the estate's northern boundary and along Summerhill Road to the west and Old Mold Road to the east. The stone wall was found to be well mortared and although there is the occasional small, blind-ending crevice in the mortar it is very unlikely that this would provide a passage through the wall itself for migrating newts.

There is a small gap in the estate wall along Griffiths Road to provide access to Stansty Park Farm but this would require any migrating newt to navigate around the existing farm buildings and to cross a large area of open hardstanding. A further length of stone wall runs around the eastern half of the proposed development site along Griffiths Road and Old Mold Road which is likely to act as a further barrier to colonisation of the site by newts from Pond 1.

If Pond 2 does exist, this would also be isolated from the site by a series of manmade barriers. The pond lies approximately 400m to the north of the proposed development site inside a housing estate. Consequently any newts using this pond would need to navigate across several roads and travel around houses to reach the site. This is considered to be unlikely.

The majority of the proposed development site comprises of closely grazed pasture land which is likely to be of low value to great crested newt.

Given that the core area of great crested newt terrestrial habitat generally lies within 50m of a breeding pond, the presence of the largely impervious stone wall around the Stansty Estate and the largely low value habitats located within the proposed development site itself, it is considered to be unlikely that great crested newt would be present within the development site.



Great Crested Newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures

Although there is considered to be a low risk of great crested newt being present at the proposed development site, it is recommended that development of the site carried out following a statement of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) to further reduce the risk of harm to GCN.

An appropriate statement of RAMs is provided in the Appendix.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Roe
Principal Ecologist



Appendix 1- Statement of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Great Crested Newt GCN

Objectives

This Statement of RAMs provides a series of actions that should be implemented for the precautionary protection of GCN potentially associated with the proposed redevelopment of Land at Boozey Field, Griffiths Road, Gwersyllt. Planning Reference P/2015/0790/

The aim of these RAMs is to eliminate as far as possible the risk of killing, injuring or disturbing GCN during works.

The main potential impacts are:

1. GCN being killed or injured as a result of being within the working areas when works begin.
2. GCN Newts becoming trapped in excavations
3. GCN Newts taking refuge in spoil mounds or under stored/waste materials
4. GCN Newts being directly injured by general activity on site

Required Actions

1- Site Clearance and Vegetation Removal

The proposed development site should be kept tidy and free from piles of debris, logs, stones, spoil, or construction materials. This is so that there are no features in which GCN will seek shelter.

The grassland sward beneath the footprint of the proposed development site should be maintained at a short height (sward no greater than 7cm in height) with regular mowing for at least one month prior to start of development. This should be carried out to reduce the suitability of habitats for GCN within the proposed works area.

It is recommended that any site clearance of any suitable newt refugia including short lengths of hedgerows, logs or other debris is undertaken by hand. Where a machine must be used e.g. the grubbing out of hedgerow roots, this should avoid taking place between 1st November and 1st March to avoid impacting any hibernating newts. This should also be done under the supervision of a licensed great crested newt worker.

2- Storage of Materials

Where construction materials are brought onto site for use in the development, all such materials should be stored on pallets or in skips, so that they are elevated off the ground and do not create new features beneath which GCNs can take shelter.

Boozey Field
GCN Reasonable Avoidance Measures



3- Excavations

Where new trenches are to be excavated, these should not be left open overnight in case dispersing GCNs fall into them. Where this is not possible, trenches should be fitted with wooden ramps to allow GCN or other wildlife to escape.

4- Discovery of GCN

If a newt of any type is identified during works, works should immediately stop and advice sought from a licensed GCN worker. Workers will not be permitted to handle GCN unless the animal is at immediate risk of harm.