

Maelor Foods site, Pickhill Lane, Cross Lanes, Wrexham

P/2014/0781

Condition 3: No part of the development shall 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 LPA. The development shall thereafter be carried out in strict accordance with the RAMs as are approved.

Great Crested Newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures

Taking the original Ecological Scoping Report for the site, prepared by Gerald Longley Ecological Consultants in 2011, as the starting point, the key points to be emphasised are as follows:

Report Summary:

The facility site itself does not offer any newt foraging habitat at all. Consequently, redevelopment of the current facility site could probably proceed without a mitigation plan.

*The facility in the perimeter fence had a **low** ecological value.*

Accordingly, it is submitted that, whilst the likelihood of Great Crested Newts is minimal, the following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be followed for the construction stage:

1. Access to the site should be made via the current established access point on Pickhill Lane.
2. The construction work will be undertaken in as short a time span as possible, preferably during the winter months.
3. Construction materials will be provided piecemeal – as and when required; this will avoid, where possible, storage on site which could potentially provide refugia for GCN.
4. If any construction materials need to be stored on site (e.g. overnight) they will be stored on pallets or retained in bags on hard standing to ensure that refuges are not created that will attract newts.
5. All new surfaces created during the construction period (e.g. exposed soil, hardcore, etc) will be compacted before nightfall so as not to provide any cracks, fissures or loose material that newts may wander into during hours of darkness.
6. Any spoil resulting from excavations will be removed from the construction area on the same day or redistributed and compacted on the same day.
7. Ongoing daily check of working areas by construction personnel to ensure that GCN have not entered the construction area overnight.
8. During construction, holes or trenches that may inadvertently provide pitfall traps for newts must be covered with flush-fitting materials such as plywood onto compacted sand overnight. If the area is too large, amphibians and mammals that may fall in must have a

means of escape. Gently sloping boards or planks from the base of the hole to the surface edge will suffice.

9. A toolbox talk will be given by the Site Manager to new construction personnel before their work commences so that all personnel are familiar with GCN and the law surrounding them.

Should Great Crested Newts be found at any time during the construction process, the work will halt and a suitably qualified ecologist will be contacted.