



Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs)
in respect of Great Crested Newts

**Proposed alterations at
Holly Lodge, Pentre Bychan Road**

Ref: 1306

**J W Ecological
Unit 3 St Ives Way
Sandycroft
Flintshire
CH5 2QS**

**Tel: 0845 838 2646
Fax: 0871 661 9701
E-mail: enquiries@jwecology.co.uk
Web: www.jwecology.co.uk**

Author:	Checked by:
Name: Joe Whittick BSc(Hons) MIEEM GCN license number: 37688:OTH:SA:2012 Date: 13/02/13	Name: Jamie Moore BA(Hons) MSc Date: 13/02/13

CONTENTS

A	INTRODUCTION	3
A1	Introduction and background	3
A2	Site description	3
B	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	4
B1	Pre- and mid-activity impacts	4
B2	Long-term impacts	4
B3	Post-activity impacts	4
B4	Other impacts	4
C	REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON SITE	5
C1	Mitigation Strategy	5
C2	Discovery of a Great Crested Newt	6
D	HABITAT CREATION	6
D1	Hibernacula creation	6
D2	Terrestrial habitat	6
E	REFERENCES	7
	APPENDICES:	
1	DRAWINGS	
2	PHOTOGRAPHS	

A INTRODUCTION

A1 Introduction and background

J W Ecological Limited were commissioned in January 2013 to produce a statement of Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) in respect of great crested newts in relation to the following works at Holly Lodge, Pentre Bychan Road, Wrexham (the site location is shown on drawing number A024/004, Appendix 1):

- Bathroom extension and garage conversion, erection of double garage (Application ESC P/2012/0580).

A single pond is shown on OS maps within 250 metres of the site. The pond is located approximately 210 metres west of the site on the opposite side of Pentre Bychan Road.

The proposals will result in the loss/disturbance of approximately 0.05 hectares of rough grass and a small area of bramble scrub. A section of hedgerow will also be removed adjacent to Pentre Bychan Road in order to create a new access.

A2 Site description

The proposed new garage will be located in an area of former agricultural land located outside of the existing southern boundary of Holly Lodge (see photograph 1, Appendix 2). The existing southern boundary of the site is a mature hedgerow (see photograph 2, Appendix 2) and this feature of the site will be retained. A small section of hedgerow adjacent to Pentre Bychan Road will be removed in order to create a new access (see photograph 3, Appendix 2).

The proposed bathroom extension will be located on an area currently occupied by an existing building and hard-standing to the west of the house (see photograph 4, Appendix 2).

B IMPACT ASSESSMENT

B1 Pre- and mid-activity impacts

The new garage will be located in an area of rough grassland with potential to be used as foraging habitat by amphibians, including great crested newts. The base of the hedgerow adjacent to Pentre Bychan Road also has potential to be used as a refuge site by amphibians. There is a risk of injury or killing of great crested newts if they were to be present within the working areas when works begin.

Amphibians, including great crested newts, may disperse across the site of the new garage and the proposed extension therefore there is a risk of accidental capture of newts in excavations or injury of newts crossing the site. The works could also potentially generate temporary resting sites in the form of spoil, stored materials and waste and there is a risk of newts being harmed if they were to use these areas.

B2 Long-term impacts

There will be a small net loss of potential great crested newt foraging and refuge habitat.

B3 Fragmentation/isolation Impacts

The proposed extension and garage will not result in significant barriers to amphibian dispersal.

B4 Post-activity impacts

No post-activity impacts are predicted. Activity on the site will not differ significantly from that which already occurs.

B4 Other impacts

No other impacts are thought likely to occur.

C REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON SITE

C1 Mitigation Strategy

In order to safeguard great crested newts during the proposed works a number of precautionary avoidance measures are to be implemented. The aim of these avoidance measures is to eliminate as far as possible the risk of killing, injuring or disturbing great crested newts.

The main potential impacts are:

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

In order to address these potential impacts the following measures will be implemented on site during the construction of the garage and extension:

Pre-construction

- Prior to the start of development works the rough grassland area which is the location of the proposed new garage will be strimmed to a height of no less than 15 centimetres. All strimmed material will be raked off and removed from site. The site will then be left for a minimum of 3 days and nights in suitable weather conditions (above 5°C) in order to allow any amphibians which may be present to disperse.
- Immediately prior to the start of development works the proposed working areas will be searched for amphibians by a great crested newt licensed ecologist. The search will include a walkover of the site and an intensive destructive search of any potential refuge areas. Any amphibians found will be transferred to a newly created artificial amphibian hibernacula located on the southern site boundary (see section D). Immediately prior to the removal of the hedgerow section adjacent to Pentre Bychan Road a fingertip search of the hedgerow base will be undertaken by a CCW licensed great crested newt ecologist. If any great crested newts are found during any of the searches then the local CCW office will be contacted for further guidance before the newt is moved.
- Following the search of the site a toolbox talk will be given to all site personnel in order to make them aware of the possible presence of great crested newts, 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 CCW great crested newt licensed ecologist.

Timing & duration

- 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.
- The length of groundworks will be kept as short as possible and groundworks will only be undertaken during the day when newts are not active.

Construction methods and special precautions

- All excavations will be covered at night or a ramp 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. Any amphibians found will be moved to the newly created amphibian hibernacula on the southern site boundary.
- 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. Alternatively all waste will be removed from site daily.

- All stored materials that might be used as temporary resting places by amphibians will be stored off the ground on pallets or similar.
- Scaffold footings will be placed on sand to prevent newts taking temporary refuge underneath the footings.

C2 Discovery of a great crested newt

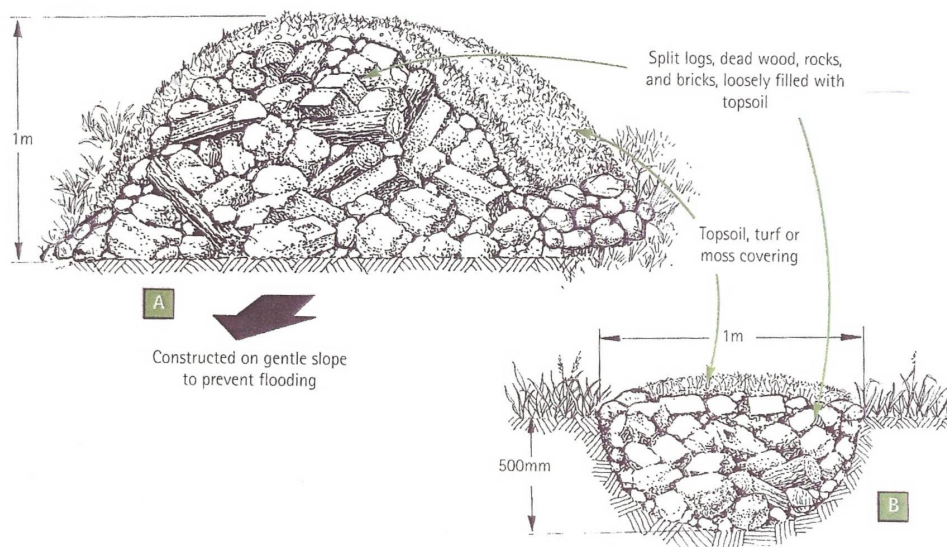
If a great crested newt is discovered at any point during the works all work will cease immediately and the CCW licensed great crested newt ecologist will be contacted for further guidance. Contractors are prohibited from handling great crested newts.

D **HABITAT CREATION**

D1 Hibernacula creation

Prior to the start of construction works a new artificial amphibian hibernacula will be created outside of the southern site boundary. The hibernacula will conform to the specification in Figure 1 below and will have a minimum length of 2 metres. The location of the hibernacula is shown on drawing A024/004 (Appendix 1).

Figure 1 – Hibernacula specification



Taken from: Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L. and Foster, J.P. (2001). *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth

D2 Terrestrial habitat

A new native hedgerow will be planted along the newly created southern boundary of the site in the first growing season. In the long term this hedgerow will have value as terrestrial habitat for amphibians.

E REFERENCES

English Nature (2001): *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*, English Nature, Peterborough.

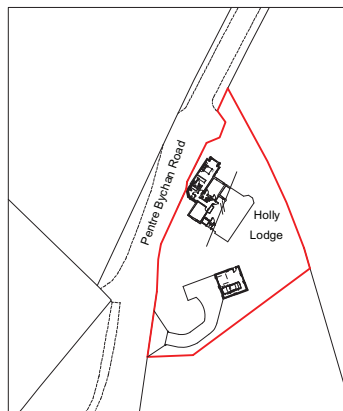
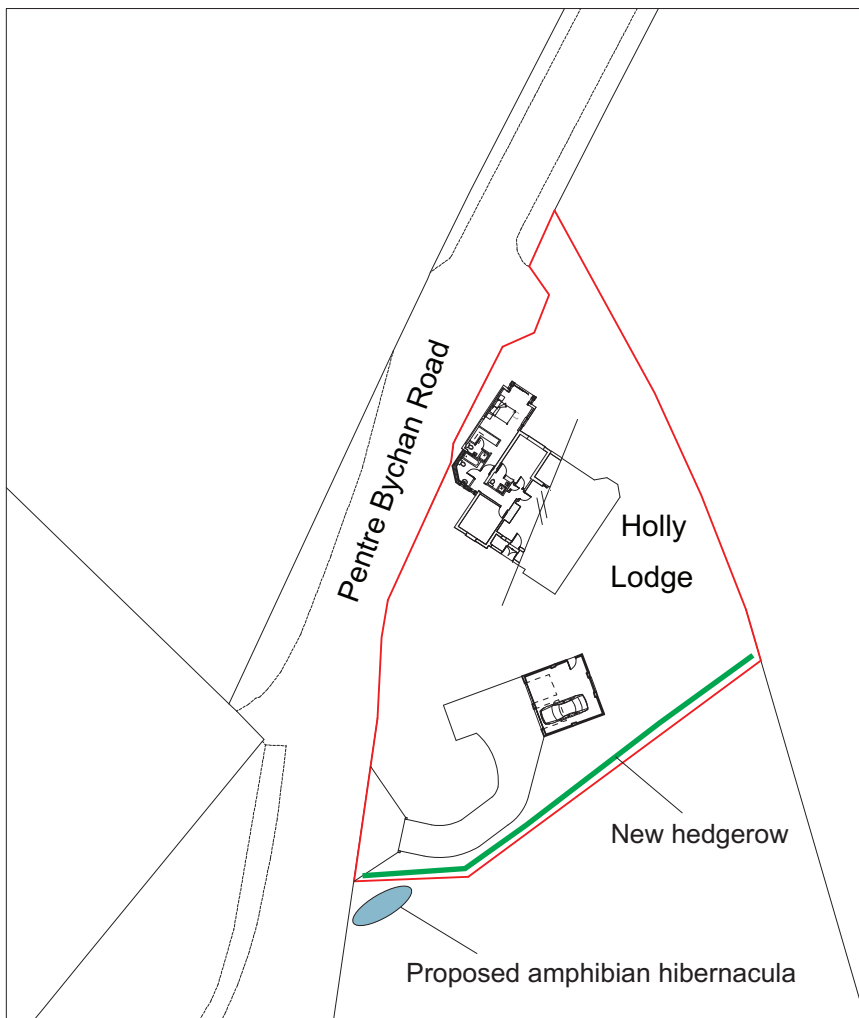
Natural England (2008). *Template for Method Statement to support application for licence under Regulation 44(2)(e) in respect of great crested newts Triturus cristatus*.

Natural England (2010). *Frequently asked wildlife question, October 2011*. Available at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.aspx>

APPENDIX 1

Drawings:

A024/004 – Site Location & Layout Plan



Rev	Date	Detail	Initial

Project:

**Proposed Alterations at
Holly Lodge,
Pentre Bychan Road,
Pentre Bychan
Wrexham, LI14 4EP**

Title:

**Site Location &
Layout Plan**

Scale: (A3)

**1:500 &
1:1250**

Drawn By:

S M Eltham

Date:

Aug 2012

Drawing No:

A024/004

Sheet:

1 of 1

blueprint
architectural services



Redwither Business Centre,
Redwither Business Park,
Wrexham. LL13 9XR

Tel: 01978 356500
www.blueprintarchitectural.com

APPENDIX 2

Photographs

Photograph 1 – Location of proposed garage	 A photograph showing a grassy field with a house and trees in the background. The field is covered in dry, yellowish-brown grass and some green patches. A house with a red roof is visible in the distance, surrounded by trees.
Photograph 2 – Existing boundary hedgerow	 A photograph showing a close-up view of a well-maintained green hedgerow. A metal gate or fence is visible in the foreground, and a utility pole is in the background.
Photograph 3 – Hedgerow section to be removed for new access	 A photograph showing a view of a hedgerow section next to a road. The ground is covered with fallen brown leaves, and the hedgerow is partially cut down. A road is visible on the right side of the image.

Photograph 4 – Location of proposed extension

