

Strategic Ecology Corridor, Wrexham

Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS)

Prepared For: Net World Sports

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Version 3.0

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The conclusions and recommendations contained in this document are based upon information gathered by TEP and provided by third parties. Information provided by third

parties and referred to herein has not been independently verified by TEP, unless otherwise expressly stated in the document.

Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required, the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) was commissioned by [redacted], a fully owned subsidiary of [redacted], (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to complete a protected/priority species Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) for the Strategic Ecology Corridor (SEC) within Wrexham Industrial Estate in Wrexham.

1.2 The SEC is comprised of three parcels of land as indicated by the following parcels in the Great Crested Newt Off-Site Mitigation Phasing Plan (Drawing G9134.042A):

- Parcels 1-3: Land to the west of the B5130 (central grid reference SJ 39627 50490);
- Parcel 4: Land off Francis Lane (central grid reference SJ 38100 51300); and
- Parcel 5: Land to the east of the B5130 (central grid reference SJ 40135 50455).

1.3 This phasing will be secured via a combination Planning Condition and s106 Agreement.

1.4 TEP has previously undertaken ecological surveys and reports for sites within the SEC, and this PWMS should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Land adjacent to B5130 Ecological Desk Study (TEP Report Ref: 10944.001);
- Land adjacent to B5130 Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10944.002);
- Land off Francis Lane Ecological Desk Study (TEP Report Ref: 10934.001); and
- Land off Francis Lane Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10934.002).

1.5 Proposals within the SEC are to provide off-site mitigation in relation to three separate [redacted] development proposals at Wrexham Industrial Estate.

1.6 The Ecological Assessments listed above identified that specific measures are required to ensure the protection of common amphibians, [redacted] and hedgehog during vegetation clearance and construction works.

1.7 Furthermore, the pre-application consultation provided by Natural Resources Wales (NRW Ref: CAS-278307-G5J1) in relation to the SEC reaffirmed the requirement for a PWMS.

Scope

1.8 This PWMS document sets out the precautionary working measures to ensure that site works will minimise significant impacts on protected and notable species, including common amphibians, [redacted] and hedgehogs.

1.9 All clearance works are to be undertaken under the supervision of the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), where necessary.

1.10 The method statement details all works required to minimise impacts on and avoid killing or injury of individual species which may be present on site. The methodologies detailed follow best ecological working practices in respect of the habitats identified within the working areas as well as the protected and/or notable species which may be present.

1.11 This PWMS must be adhered to at all times by the project manager, Net World Sports, and all contractors working on site.

Key Contacts

1.12 Any contractors requiring advice with regard to this PWMS are welcome to contact the TEP Head Office for further information:

- TEP - Head Office (01925 844004)

1.13 If an injured animal is found on site, it should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Information regarding the nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contact details for the nearest Wildlife Rescue Centres to the site

Name	Address / Location	Telephone Number(s)	Distance and Direction from site
RSPCA Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre	Stapeley Grange, London Road, Nantwich CW5 7JW	0300 123 0722	22 miles east
Lower Moss Wood Wildlife	School Lane, Knutsford WA16 8SJ	01565 755082	45 miles northeast
The Hulse Towers Hedgehog Refuge	39 Lownorth Rd, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22	0161 437 8395	46 miles northeast

2.0 Amphibians

Baseline Ecology Information

Parcels 1-3: Land to the West of the B5130

2.1 The following records of amphibians were returned from within 2km of the land to the west of the B5130 site (TEP Report Ref: 10944.001):

- 17 records of great crested newt (GCN) *Triturus cristatus*;
- 16 records of smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*;
- 9 records of common frog *Rana temporaria*;
- 4 records of common toad *Bufo bufo*; and
- 3 records of palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*.

2.2 There are three ponds within this site, one of which (Pond A5) returned a positive result for GCN eDNA. An additional 35 ponds are located within 500m of the site.

2.3 The Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10944.002) identified onsite habitats that are suitable for breeding, foraging, ranging and hibernating common amphibians.

Parcel 4: Land off Francis Lane

2.4 The following records of amphibians were returned from within 2km of the Land off Francis Lane site (TEP Report Ref: 10934.001):

- 115 records of GCN; and
- 15 records of common toad.

2.5 No ponds were identified within 250m of the site, however the Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10934.002) identified onsite grassland and hedgerow habitats that are suitable for foraging and ranging amphibians, and the root balls of onsite hedgerows, scattered trees and scrub provide suitable habitat for hibernating common amphibians.

Parcel 5: Land to the East of the B5130

2.6 GCN were identified within the pond located along the northern boundary of the land to the east of the B5130 and the onsite habitats are suitable for breeding, foraging, ranging and hibernating common amphibians.

Relevant Legislation

2.7 GCN and their habitats (aquatic and terrestrial) are afforded full protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Section 9, Schedule 5) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). GCN, along with common toad and smooth newt are species of principal importance (SPI) for biodiversity as listed under Section 42 of the NERC Act 2006 and Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2.8 Smooth newts and common toads are only offered limited protected by section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, prohibiting the sale, barter, exchange or transport for sale or advertising to sell or to buy.

Method Statement

Toolbox Talk

2.9 A GCN-licenced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed, and a toolbox talk will be delivered to all contractors before site clearance and commencement of construction activities. All staff on site should be made aware of the potential presence of amphibians and reptiles on site.

2.10 The toolbox talk will include:

- Identification of these species;
- Biosecurity provisions to protect these species;
- Details of their legislative protection and associated planning conditions;
- Details of the method statement and what to do in the eventuality that these species are found; and
- Details of the licence conditions, including the implications of non-compliance.

Vegetation Clearance

2.11 Vegetation clearance should not be undertaken during winter (November to January inclusive). The GCN-licenced ECoW will supervise the clearance of vegetation.

2.12 Prior to commencement of works, any potential sheltering and hibernation features for amphibians within the works area will be removed by hand by the ecologist, where size allows. This includes logs, rocks, boulders, and scrub.

2.13 Clearance of any scrub will be undertaken using a staged approach. The ecologist will hand search the vegetation for amphibians. Following the hand search, the vegetation may be cut to 200mm. A final check will then be conducted by the

ecologist. Once confirmed clear, the vegetation will be cut to ground level. Pulling up of root systems of scrub must be supervised by the ECoW. The ECoW will hand search the root balls for amphibians, following which they can be removed from site.

2.14 Any common amphibians encountered during the works will be captured by the ecologist and translocated to suitable habitat located within the wider area. GCN may only be moved under an appropriate European protected species derogation licence.

Standard Precautionary Working Measures

2.15 The following standard precautionary working measures will also be implemented during the works:

- Excavations will be boarded or otherwise suitably covered at night. Where this is not practicable, a ramp will be provided (at an angle of no more than 45°) to allow any animal that may become trapped to escape.
- Materials for works should be stored off the ground on pallets or in bags where possible.
- Spoil piles should be kept off the ground on pallets or in skips where possible.
- Any spoil piles present on site will be compacted to prevent them being used as refugia by amphibians.
- Amphibian exclusion fencing should be installed in accordance with the specification provided in the Temporary Amphibian Fencing guidance (Drawing D9134.002) and in the locations indicated in the GCN Fencing Plan (Drawing G10934.011.1-3).

3.0 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
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- [redacted]
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- [redacted]
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- [redacted]
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[redacted]

[redacted]

4.0 Hedgehogs

Baseline Ecology Information

Parcels 1-3: Land to the west of the B5130

4.1 Two records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned from within 2km of the Land to the West of the B5130 site (TEP Report Ref: 10944.001).

4.2 The onsite hedgerows provide potential sheltering and hibernating habitat for hedgehog and the grassland habitats within the site are suitable to support foraging and ranging hedgehog. (TEP Report Ref: 10944.002).

Parcel 4: Land off Francis Lane

4.3 Five records of hedgehog were returned from within 2km of the Land off Francis Lane site (TEP Report Ref: 10934.001).

4.4 The onsite hedgerows provide potential sheltering and hibernating habitat for hedgehog and the grassland habitats within the site are suitable to support foraging and ranging hedgehog. (TEP Report Ref: 10934.002).

Parcel 5: Land to the east of the B5130

4.5 The hedgerows within the land to the east of the B5130 provide suitable sheltering and hibernating habitat for hedgehog and the grassland within the site is suitable to support foraging and ranging hedgehog.

Relevant Legislation

4.6 Hedgehogs are considered species of principal importance under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Hedgehogs are also partially protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in that they are protected from being killed, injured or taken by certain methods.

Method Statement

4.7 It is recommended that the early hibernation period (November to December inclusive) is avoided where possible in relation to the clearance of scrub vegetation. The risk of hedgehog death is increased if they are disturbed during this period.

Works during hibernation period (November to March)

4.8 If site investigation and vegetation clearance works are undertaken during the winter months, the following precautionary working methods should be followed to

increase the risk of hedgehog survival, if discovered during the site clearance works:

4.9 Prior to vegetation clearance works commencing, a refuge area will be created within an area of the site where the trees and vegetation are undisturbed. The refuge area will be created with arisings from scrub and grass clearance within the site. A hedgehog box will also be placed at this location, filled with bedding, and supplied with a bowl of food. The box must not be disturbed until the end of the hibernation period.

4.10 Clearance of the areas of grassland habitats on site, including those within woodland areas, should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be strimmed by hand, under supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), to a height of 300 mm to prevent any harm to hibernating or sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to the hedgehog box by the ECoW.

Works during active season (April - October)

4.11 Clearance of the areas of grassland habitat suitable for hedgehogs should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be strimmed by hand, under supervision of an ECoW, to a height of 30cm to prevent any harm to sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to a suitable receptor area within the wider site by the ECoW.

4.12 Regular strimming works within the development area should take place to keep any retained habitats short, which will make the area unattractive to foraging or resting hedgehogs. This will deter hedgehogs from the site thereby reducing the risk of harm occurring to this species.

Standard Precautionary Working Measures (at any time)

4.13 As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site should be made aware of the potential for presence of hedgehog within the site and their status as a protected species during a toolbox talk delivered by the ECoW.

4.14 The following standard precautionary working methods will also be implemented during the works:

- Arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing refuge opportunities for hedgehog, which would then have to be hand searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.

- No site compounds, stored materials and soil piles sited within the core terrestrial habitat will be left uncovered. Soil storage mounds must be compacted before the end of each day's work to ensure they do not become attractive refuges. All stored materials and soil piles must be suitably covered with an inaccessible covering such as tarpaulin to prevent hedgehogs using this material as refugia.
- Open excavations should be covered overnight using plyboard and sandbags to fully seal any gaps. If this is not possible, a plank of wood placed at an angle no steeper than 40° should be left within the excavations, or sloping exits to trenches provided, so any hedgehogs or small mammals which fall into the trenches are able to escape.
- Existing access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular or plant access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present. If it is not possible to do so, an ecologist should be contacted for advice.
- Agreed access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present.
- Pipes stored on site would be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment of hedgehogs.

4.15 If an injured hedgehog is found on site, this should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Additionally, if any young hedgehogs are found during the autumn, immediately prior to the hibernation period, these should also be taken to a wildlife rescue centre as it would be unlikely that these would survive the winter. Details of the nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site are provided in the Table 1.

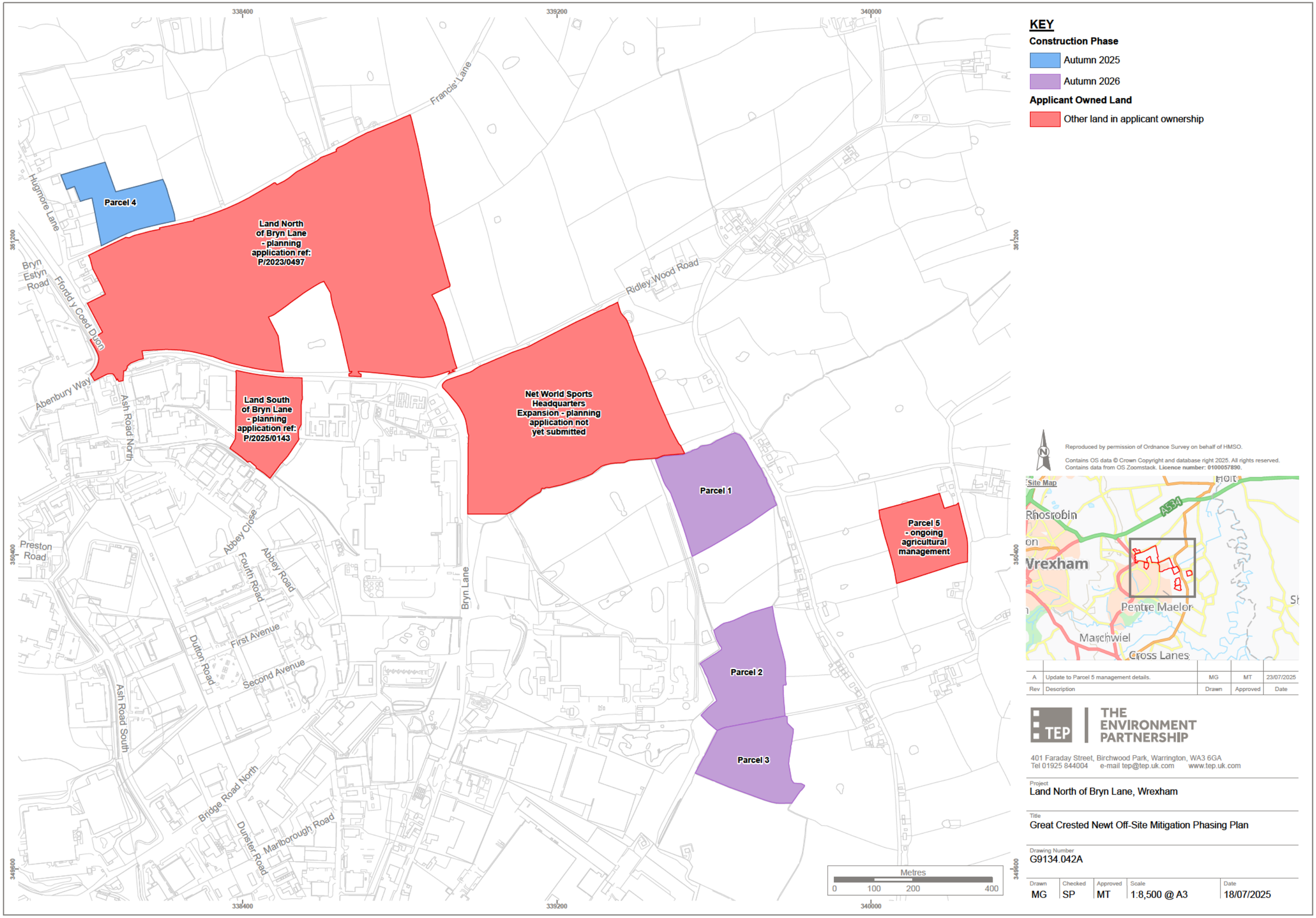
4.16 If a situation arises regarding hedgehogs and the contractor is unsure what action to take, advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Drawings

Drawing 1: G9134.042A Great Crested Newt Off-Site Mitigation Phasing Plan

Drawing 2: D9134.002 Temporary Amphibian Fencing (TEP.ECO.001)

Drawing 3: G10934.011.1-3 Great Crested Newt Fencing Plan



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
A	Update to Parcel 5 management details.	MG	MT	23/07/2025

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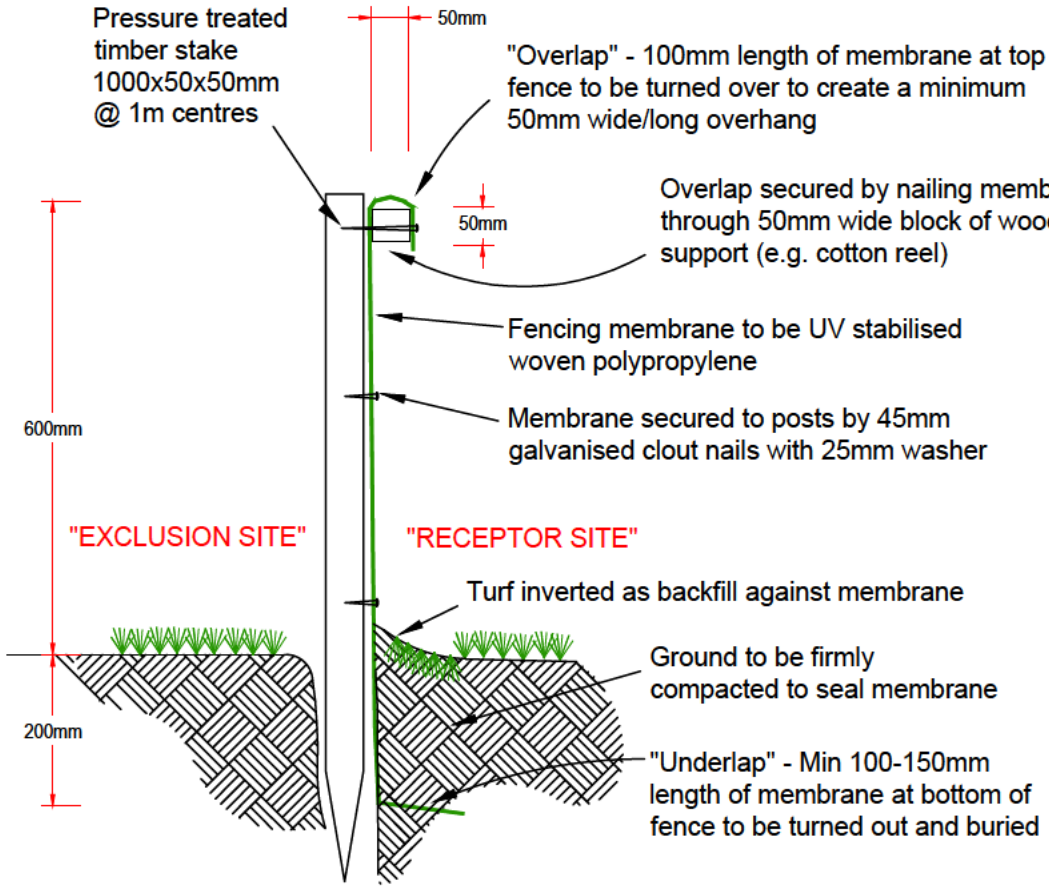
Project
Land North of Bryn Lane, Wrexham

Title
Great Crested Newt Off-Site Mitigation Phasing Plan

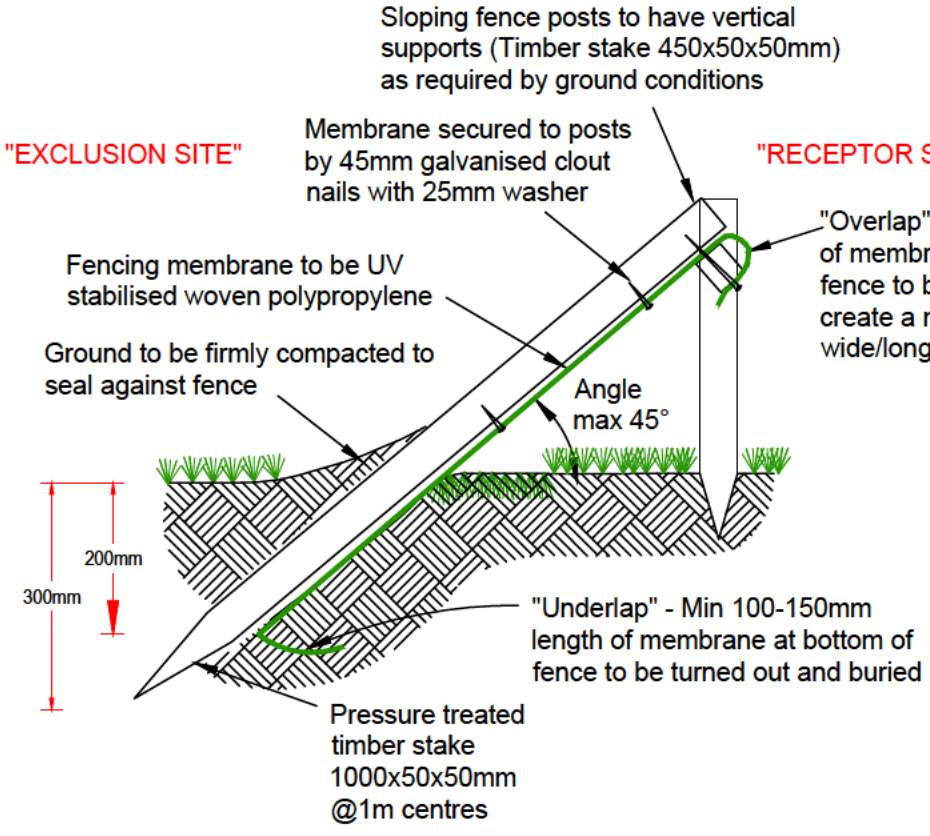
Drawing Number
G9134.042A

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VERTICAL AMPHIBIAN EXCLUSION FENCING
Scale 1:10



ONE-WAY AMPHIBIAN EXCLUSION FENCING
Scale 1:10



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project
Utopia Bryn Lane

Title
Temporary Amphibian Fencing

Drawing Number
D9134.002 (Figure: TEP.ECO.001)

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KEY

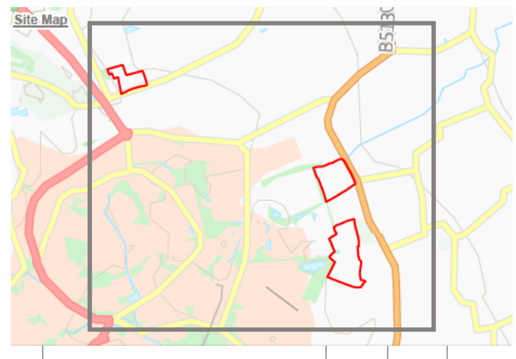
Site boundary

Page and page number

Note:
The layout of proposed fencing is not fixed

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Project
Utopia, Francis Lane

Title
Great Crested Newt Fencing Plan

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KEY

Site boundary

Great Crested Newt Fencing

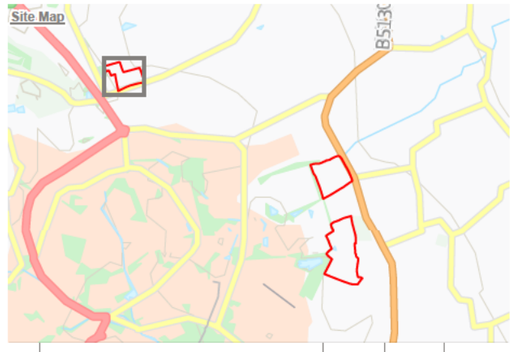
One-way perimeter fence

Note:
The layout of proposed fencing is not fixed

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Site Map



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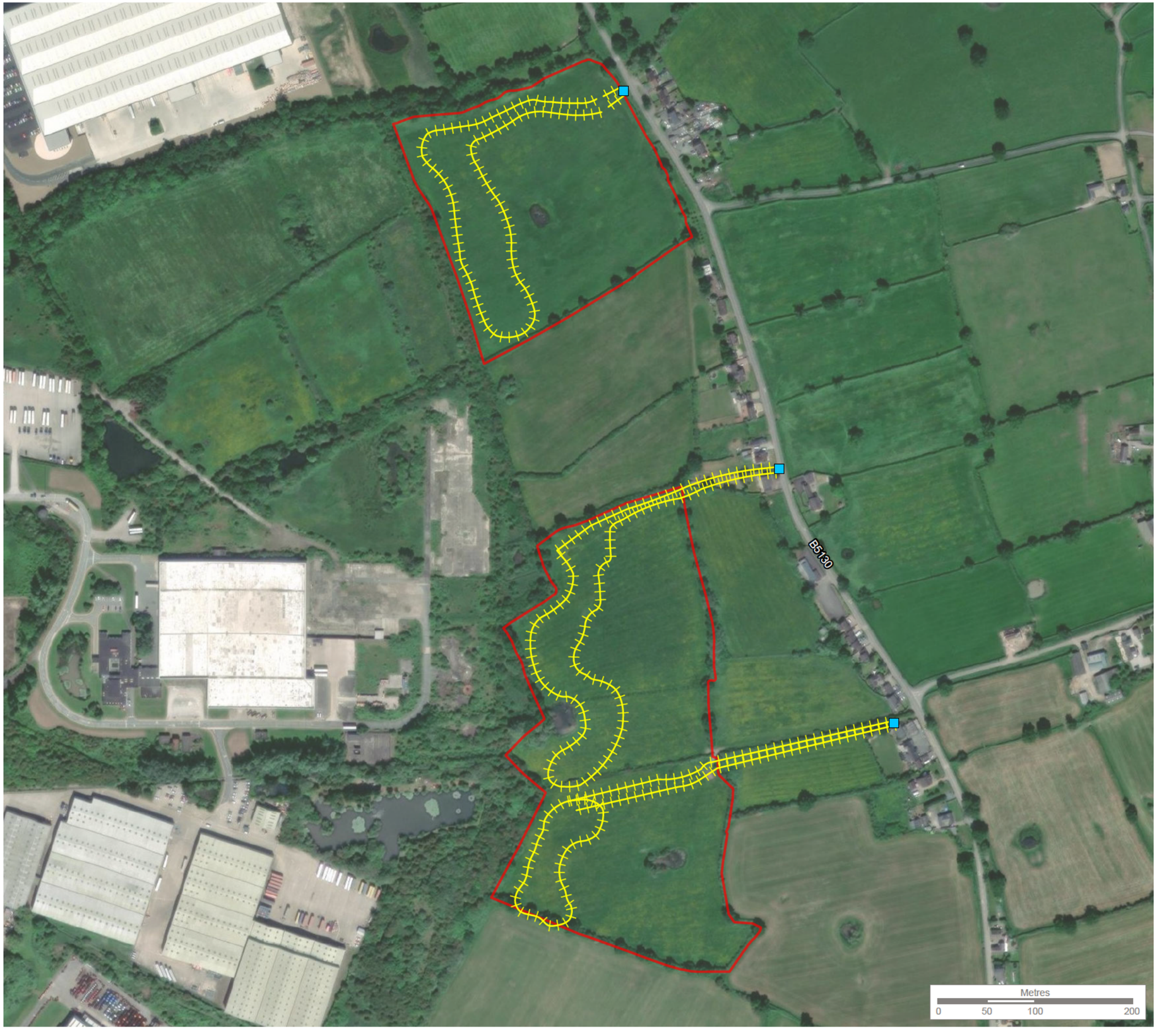
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Project
Utopia, Francis Lane

Title
Great Crested Newt Fencing Plan

Drawing Number
G10934.011.2

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
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KEY

Site boundary

Great Crested Newt Fencing

Gated entrace at existing track into fields

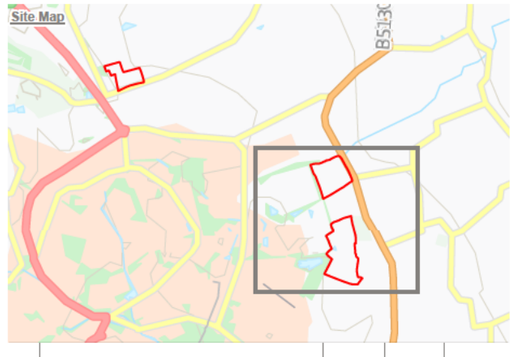
One-way fencing

Note:
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Site Map



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Project
Utopia, Francis Lane

Title
Great Crested Newt Fencing Plan

Drawing Number				Page 3 of 3
G10934.011.3				
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