Site:	Darland Academy
Client:	Wrexham AFC Limited
Job Number:	784-B074479
Survey Type(s):	Great Crested Newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures & Biosecurity Risk Assessment Report
File Location:	M:\Projects\784-B074479_Darland_Academy_Phase_2\60_Output\61_WIP\GCN RAMs & Biosecurity

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech was commissioned by Wrexham AFC Limited in April 2026 to provide a document with a Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement (RAM MS) covering great crested newts *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) and other amphibians as well as a Biosecurity Risk Assessment (BRA) for the works taking place on site, proposed plan drawing (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1105-P07 - Phase 2 Works GA) provided in Appendix A. This report has been prepared to inform the Darland Academy Phase 2 development.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Darland Academy Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Tetra Tech, 2025) which provides further ecological detail of the site.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Detail the relevant legislation regarding great crested newt and other common amphibian species that may be present on site;
- To set out measures to be implemented during construction to prevent or minimise the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) and diseases (e.g. Chytrid and Ranavirus) within and outside of the scheme boundary;
- To comply with relevant wildlife legislation namely Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019;
- Detail working methods and reasonable avoidance measures that are to be adopted during construction phase;
- Review the roles and responsibilities of contractors; and
- Detail general good practice measures.

This report has been prepared by Consultant Ecologist Carlos Dolado-Hollyman MSc BSc and the conditions pertinent to it are provided in Appendix B.

GCN are a European protected species, full details of that protection, including types of offences and policy position are provided in Appendix C.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located adjacent to Darland High School, Chester Road, Rosset, Wrexham, Wales and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SJ 37532 57552. It comprises amenity fields, hedgerows, a drainage ditch and a strip of woodland. The ditch is associated with the woodland.

The land in the wider area comprises agricultural and pastoral fields to the north, east and south, and residential development to the west. Hedgerows and treelines are also prominent in the local setting.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

The Darland Academy Phase 2 development will include the creation new surface drainage and pitch renovations, installation of permanent irrigation tanks, permanent pump housing, permanent containers for training equipment and boundary treatment.

The areas of woodland, hedgerow and ditch are being retained therefore will not be affected by the works. See Appendix A for Proposed Plan (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1105-P07 - Phase 2 Works GA) and Appendix D for the Proposed Planting Plan (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1112-P03 - Planting Plan - Phase 2).

2.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This document will be distributed to all relevant personnel involved in the site construction works.

2.1 BIODIVERSITY CHAMPION

A Biodiversity Champion will be nominated to influence site activities during construction works in line with the recommendations of this report. The Biodiversity Champion does not need to be an ecologist but should be familiar with this report and have sufficient authority and presence on site to influence activities. Usually, a member of the lead contractor team takes this role during the site Construction Phase. The Biodiversity Champion nominated during the Construction Phase should have a regular site presence. Once management of the site is transferred into the Operational Phase, at the end of the Construction Phase, the role of Biodiversity Champion can be transferred to a new individual (such as the management agent or land agent).

During the Construction Phase the role of a Biodiversity Champion is to advocate for all ecology on site as highlighted by this document and to check that the ecological protection and mitigation measures, as specified in this document, are correctly implemented. Advice to the construction teams on all pertinent ecological issues can be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

General responsibilities of the Biodiversity Champion during the Construction Phase are:

- Overseeing that all site contractors know how to report any ecological concerns/issues to him/her/them;
- Check and document that an overview of the site's ecological constraints are included within the contractor inductions as appropriate;
- Undertaking weekly checks of any retained or newly created habitats;
- Organising specified protective measures, maintenance/repairs, restoration and monitoring where necessary;
- Supervising and monitoring the implementation of habitat creation measures as set out in this document;
- Regular contact with an ecologist to review plans, constraints, avoidance and mitigation, unforeseen changes or maintenance of baseline data etc. issues surrounding the development;
- Ensuring all site contractors are aware of all biosecurity constraints;
- Overseeing that all site contractors know to report any ecological concerns/issues to him/her/them (e.g. any invasive non-native species and specific diseases on site); and
- Make sure all contractors are adhering to the biosecurity measures outlined in this document.

General responsibilities of the Biodiversity Champion during the Operational Phase are:

- Overseeing that the created habitats on site are managed as per the management plan;
- Checking the success of new habitats and ensuring that remedial action is taken where necessary;
- Ensuring specialist contractors are appointed as appropriate; to provide advice and site works in relation to INNS (plants). Relevant contact details for local ecological and animal welfare organisations are set out within Section 7 in relation to INNS (animals);
- Records of all actions completed as per the guidance within this document shall be kept, including area/location of any treatment works, what treatment works were carried out, dates, photographs and any other relevant information;
- Checking the health of any animals found on site (e.g. newts for Chytrid and frogs for Ranavirus) and contacting an ecologist or relevant organisation as required; and

- Contacting ecologist or relevant organisation if any issues arise related to ecology.

Where additional issues are identified, or where it is considered that revised maintenance regimes are needed, the Biodiversity Champion should contact a suitably qualified ecologist who can make changes to management prescriptions as appropriate. The Biodiversity Champion will take photographs, make logbook entries of inspections and produce progress reports as appropriate to evidence that the above responsibilities are being upheld. This monitoring and review process will be carried out as an integral part of the overall management plan.

2.2 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The contractor responsibilities include the following:

- To adhere to the relevant provisions made within this document and the Construction Management Plan (CMP) prepared by the contractor;
- To adhere to the procedures for great crested newts and other amphibians under the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist/ Biodiversity Champion; and
- To contact the Biodiversity Champion, and/or if necessary, a suitably qualified ecologist, regarding any uncertainties or activities that may impact on ecological features on site.

2.3 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

It is unlawful to facilitate the dispersal of any species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA)

Part 14 of the Act states that 'if any person plants or otherwise causes to grow in the wild, plants which are included in Part II of Schedule 9, he shall be guilty of an offence'. Therefore, it is unlawful to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any plant which is listed in Part II of Schedule 9 of the WCA. The Act also states that persons must take all reasonable steps and must exercise due diligence to avoid committing an offence. It is not an offence to have plants listed under Schedule 9 on your land, however it would be an offence to cause the spread of these plants to new areas. Based on previous survey data, it is anticipated that there are no INNS present within the site (Tetra Tech, 2025).

Table 1: List of invasive plant species listed in Part II of the Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Australian swamp stonecrop or New Zealand pygmyweed	*Crassula helmsii*	Japanese rose	*Rosa rugosa*
Californian red seaweed	*Pikea californica*	Japanese seaweed	*Sargassum muticum*
Curly waterweed	*Lagarosiphon major*	Laver seaweeds (except native species)	*Porphyra* spp
Duck potato	*Sagittaria latifolia*	Yellow azalea	*Rhododendron luteum*
Entire-leaved cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster integrifolius*	Parrot's-feather	*Myriophyllum aquaticum*
False Virginia creeper	*Parthenocissus inserta*	Perfoliate alexanders	*Smyrnium perfoliatum*
Fanwort or Carolina water-shield	*Cabomba caroliniana*	Pontic rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Few-flowered garlic	*Allium paradoxum*	Purple dewplant	*Disphyma crassifolium*

Floating pennywort	*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	Red algae	*Grateloupia luxurians*
Floating water primrose	*Ludwigia peploides*	Rhododendron	*Rhododendron ponticum*
Giant hogweed	*Heracleum mantegazzianum*	Small-leaved cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster microphyllus*
Giant kelp	*Macrocystis* spp.	Three-cornered garlic	*Allium triquetrum*
Giant knotweed	*Fallopia sachalinensis*	Variegated yellow archangel	*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*
Giant rhubarb	*Gunnera tinctoria*	Virginia creeper	*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Giant salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*	Wakame	*Undaria pinnatifida*
Green seafingers	*Codium fragile*	Wall cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster horizontalis*
Himalayan cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster simonsii*	Water fern	*Azolla filiculoides*
Hollyberry cotoneaster	*Cotoneaster bullatus*	Water hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes*
Hooked asparagus seaweed	*Asparagopsis armata*	Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*
Hottentot fig	*Carpobrotus edulis*	Water primrose	*Ludwigia grandiflora*
Hybrid knotweed	*Fallopia japonica* × *Fallopia sachalinensis*	Water primrose	*Ludwigia uruguayensis*
Indian (Himalayan) balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*	Waterweeds	*Elodea* spp.
Japanese knotweed	*Reynoutria japonica*		

Table 2: List of invasive amphibian species in the UK

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
Alpine newt	*Mesotriton alpestris*	Marble newt	*Triturus marmoratus*
Midwife Toad	*Alytes obstetricans*	Edible frog	*Pelophylax esculentus*
Marsh frog	*Pelophylax ridibundus*	Italian crested newt	*Triturus carnifex*
Bull frog	*Lithobates catesbeianus*	African clawed toad	*Xenopus laevis*

2.4 AMPHIBIAN DISEASES

2.4.1. Chytrid

A species of chytrid fungus *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* which translates as salamander skin-eating fungus threatens native amphibian populations in the UK. The fungus has recently devastated fire salamander population in Netherlands and Belgium in as little as 2-3 years and has entered the UK through the pet trade via newt species imported from south-east Asia. The disease is fatal to UK amphibian species including great crested newt.

Symptoms of infection in adult amphibians include reddening of the skin, excessive shedding of skin, skin ulceration (especially at the tips of the toes), abnormal posture, apparent "seizures" or unusual behaviours such as nocturnal species being active during the day (see photos 1 and 2 below).



Photograph 1: Chytrid in natterjack toad *Epidalea calamita*- reddening of the skin and skin ulceration



Photograph 2: Chytrid in smooth newt *Lissotrion vulgaris* - excessive shedding of skin

2.4.2. Ranavirus

Ranavirus is predominantly found in common frogs *Rana temporaria*, occurring less commonly in other amphibians. It causes two forms of disease in frogs: skin ulcers and internal bleeding. In the first case ulcers can readily be seen on the skin, especially on the underside of the pelvic region and on the hind limbs and feet, in extreme cases causing loss of digits. Bleeding is sometimes evident from the mouth or cloaca or as a reddening of the underside (see Photograph 3).



Photograph 3: Ranavirus in frog – skin ulcers and internal bleeding

3.0 GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

This section describes the general good practice activities to be carried out during any pre-construction habitat clearance and the Construction Phase of the proposed development. These activities have been designed to reduce the likelihood that any negative impacts will occur to ecological receptors on or adjacent to the site.

3.1 GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE

To minimise the risk of harm to wildlife it is recommended that the below high-level guidance is implemented onsite and be monitored by the Biodiversity Champion:

- The contractors must be fully aware of the Site boundary, ensuring that all works are contained within the working area footprint as agreed with the Project Ecologist. Works should be restricted to the minimum possible footprint so as to avoid unnecessary disturbance of species/habitats;
- No works should take place after sunset[1] and no artificial lighting should be used as this poses a risk of disturbing species such as bats which use unlit corridors for moving through the landscape. No external security lighting should be left on in-situ overnight;
- If any protected species, including nesting birds should works occur during the nesting bird season (March-September inclusive) are observed within the Site boundary or the surrounding habitats, work should stop immediately, and a Tetra Tech Project Ecologist notified. Although these measures are necessary specifically in relation to protected species and nesting birds, contractors should treat any animals with similar due care and attention;
- Site staff and contractors should be aware that protected species such as amphibians and reptiles may be found sheltering amongst refugia such as rubble, wood, spoil, chippings or rubbish. As a result:
  - All machinery, materials and chemicals should be stored safely and securely to prevent foraging and commuting animals coming in to contact with these, and to prevent spillage of chemicals;
  - All materials (including wood chippings) created from works may be used as a refuge by GCN and reptiles and should be elevated off the ground for storage (for example using pallets ~250mm above ground level), or stored within skips prior to their removal, unless otherwise agreed by the Project Ecologist (details provided in Section 7); and
  - Any areas of loose spoil must be fully compacted, to ensure no cracks or crevices remain.
- Fuel and chemicals should be stored in appropriate capacity bunded tanks/bowsers, and drip trays used beneath equipment such as generators;
- Contractors should design and implement a waste management plan in order to avoid causing death or injury to wildlife;
- All excavations should be either covered at the end of the day (preferable) to prevent access and if this is not possible, they should be left with a ramp to allow any fauna which has fallen in with a means of escape;
- All pipes should be inspected be capped at night, to prevent animals from entering;
- Daily checks of any excavations should be made by contractors prior to commencing work to ensure that no animals have become trapped in the excavations. Should a trapped protected/notable species be found within the works area, the Project Ecologist should be immediately contacted for advice;
- Chemicals in the form of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers should be avoided wherever possible. Chemicals which cannot be avoided should be used in strict accordance with manufactures

[1] As defined for the met office by Royal Observatory Edinburgh http://www.roe.ac.uk/info/srss.html.

instructions, and appropriate spill kits should be provided, and site personnel appropriately trained to use these;

- In the unlikely event that an animal is accidentally injured during works, the works must stop immediately, and the Tetra Tech Project Ecologist contacted; and
- In order for this document to remain valid, the works must be carried out in line with the work plans provided in Appendices A and C. If changes to the development are required at any stage of construction, the risks to ecology would need to be reassessed prior to the works continuing.

3.2 INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

To minimise the risk of spreading invasive non-native species it is recommended that the below guidance is implemented into a CMP and be monitored by the Biodiversity Champion:

- All operatives and consultants working on the site should be provided with a toolbox talk provided by a suitably qualified ecologist or Biodiversity Champion, which highlights relevant INNS (such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed), the identification of INNS and describes the strategy used for marking and identifying them during site clearance (if found to be present) and stopping them from spreading. Toolbox to be signed by contractors on site (see Appendix E).
- Should any INNS be identified on site, an excusion zone of 7m must be erected from the outer edge of the stand/plant and should be clearly marked with high visibility tape or line paint to limit the potential for accidental spread. The project ecologist ora specialist contractor should be contacted for guidance.
- An appropriate vehicle and equipment washdown area should be designated to contain the spread of any invasive plant material from site. Vehicles and other equipment must be thoroughly cleaned in the designated wash down area before being used in uncontaminated areas.
- The wash-down area should be provided to clean boots and tools as soon as contractors leave this area to prevent spread of any invasive plant material from site.
- All material resulting from vehicle wash-down must be collected and disposed of at a landfill site which is licenced to receive Schedule 9 plant waste.

3.3 AMPHIBIAN DISEASES

To minimise the risk of spreading disease it is recommended that the below guidance is implemented into a CMP and be monitored by the Biodiversity Champion:

- If works are to be conducted in the woodland (including woodland edge), hedgerows or the ditch; works should be undertaken under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).
- Handle common amphibians only when necessary and handle great crested newt only if the species is in danger of being killed or injured and contact the project ecologist for advice.
- If handling amphibians, or if contact with standing water is necessary, wear powder-free disposable vinyl gloves which you rinse before contact with the amphibians. Use vinyl rather than latex or nitrile because the latter two may be harmful to amphibians.
- If entering water, footwear should be washed and disinfected (see disinfection procedures below) immediately after entering water.
- Only release amphibians at a location approved by the project ecologist.
- Treat dead or sick amphibians as a high infection risk and do not handle unless necessary.

- If dead or diseased amphibians are found, this should be registered with the Garden Wildlife Health project. In the case of dead amphibians being found, a sample should be sent as per guidance on the Garden Wildlife Health website.

3.3.1. DISINFECTION PROCEDURES

Disinfect any equipment that has come into contact with amphibians or standing water. This includes footwear (boots) and any ground moving equipment.

To disinfect equipment the following will be required:

- a bucket or washing up bowl (for surveyor equipment/ PPE)
- a designated vehicle washdown area (for large equipment/ machinery)
- a brush
- disinfectant (bleach or Virkon refer to list below)
- disposable or washing up gloves (to wear while disinfecting)
- a source, or container, of clean water

1. Use brush to scrub off any debris, plant fragments, mud etc.

2. Rinse with water.

3. Soak in bleach solution for at least 5 minutes, or Virkon for at least one minute.

4. Rinse with clean water.

5. If possible, allow to dry before next use.

DISINFECTION SOLUTIONS

Bleach (diluted with water to produce a 4% solution) Bleach is usually diluted in water at 1:10 or 1:100 (depending on manufacturer).

Virkon (10mg/ml, as per supplier's instructions).

Virkon-S (licensed for veterinary/animal livestock applications but not human use) can also be purchased in tablet form. One 5mg tablet can be dissolved in 500ml of water.

Pond water can be used to make up solutions so long as it contains little or no organic matter (as this reduces disinfectant efficacy).

4.0 GCN REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

Great crested newt and other common amphibians may be present on site as indicated by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site (Tetra Tech, 2025) and should be considered during the site clearance and construction phases of the works as follows:

4.1.1 Great Crested Newt and Other Amphibians

There were 15 records for amphibians within the previous 20 years and within 2 km of the site returned during the desk study. Of these 6 pertained to great crested newts, with the closest record located 200m east of site. Other species included palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*, smooth newt and common frog.

The habitats proposed to be impacted by the works are considered to be negligible for aquatic phase GCN, and suboptimal for terrestrial phase GCN (modified grassland in use as amenity fields). The optimal habitats i.e. hedgerows, woodland and the ditch are not due to be impacted. As such, risk of impacting GCN onsite is considered to be low and a mitigation licence not required in this scenario. Based on the current proposals, it is considered that the measures detailed within this document are sufficient to prevent a breach of legislation (Appendix C).

All species of native amphibians are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) include:

- A toolbox talk must be provided to the contractors at the start of the works. The toolbox talk will detail any RAMs specific to great crested newts and other amphibians; toolbox to be signed by contractors on site (see Appendix E).
- Any site clearance works, including vegetation removal, removal of natural /artificial refugia and breaking ground must be undertaken during the amphibian active season (March - end October, during periods of suitable weather) to avoid impacting on hibernating amphibians. Any hibernacula i.e. log piles or brash piles must be dismantled by hand under ECoW supervision.
- All removal of the below-ground parts of cleared vegetation e.g. scrub roots must be undertaken during the amphibian active season (March - end October inclusive) to avoid impacting on hibernating amphibians.
- Immediately prior to site clearance works, any high-risk areas i.e. hedgerows, woodland, ditch or brash piles/refugia must be finger-tip searched by an ECoW. This will then be followed by the removal of the refugia under the supervision of the ECoW.
- The modified amenity grassland is not considered to be suitable terrestrial habitat for GCN. However, should any suitable grassland terrestrial habitat be impacted during the works i.e.2m buffer from hedgerow base, it is recommended that staged strimming is undertaken to displace amphibians from these areas and encourage dispersal to suitable retained areas under ECoW. A two stage strim is to be undertaken, with the first stim taking the grassland height to roughly 6 inches, encouraging amphibians to move out, with the second strim taking the grass to ground level.
- If a great crested newt is encountered at any time during the works, then works must stop and the project ecologist contacted. At this stage no license from NRW is considered necessary, however if GCN are encountered on site NRW will be contacted regarding a European Protected Species License (EPSL).
- If any other amphibians are encountered (e.g. smooth newt, palmate newt, common toad or common frog) animals should be carefully handled using gloved hands and moved to a retained area of habitat a suitable distance from machinery and site works/works must be halted and time given for the animal to move safely away from the works area. Any injured animals should be taken to a vet or wildlife clinic. The incident should then be reported to the project ecologist who must be contacted for further advice.

Any pipes stored, or installed on-site, will be inspected and covered or capped at night to reduce the risk of animals becoming trapped inside.

5.0 RECOMMENDED TIMING OF WORK

Table 3 highlights the anticipated timetable for completion of Reasonable avoidance measures during construction. The nominated Biodiversity Champion will be responsible for undertaking these actions or organising for these actions to be undertaken.

Table 3: Timetable for completion of management and monitoring of tasks.

Works Phase	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
Pre-construction	N/A	Nomination of Biodiversity Champion.	Prior to instruction works	
Pre-construction		Biodiversity Champion to meet with project ecologist to discuss document.	Prior to construction works commencing	
Pre-construction	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and	Fingertip searches of refugia and any suitable vegetation (to be cleared) for great crested newts and other amphibians. Nesting bird checks of any suitable vegetation (to be cleared) if works completed during the nesting bird season (March-September inclusive).	Prior to vegetation clearance / construction	

Works Phase	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
	Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.			
Pre-Construction	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5; Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.	Toolbox talk to include; • Detailing the RAMS required such as supervision of strimming and dismantling of refugia to be undertaken by ECoW prior to works with potential to impact ecology such as site clearance; • Identification of great crested newts and other amphibians; • Procedure if animals are found; - If GCN then works must stop and a licensed ecologist contacted; and - If other newt or amphibian, these may be moved by the Biodiversity Champion to a similar habitat away from ongoing works if necessary.	Site / vegetation clearance to commence prior to hibernation period.	
Construction	*GCN*: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Schedule 2; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedules 5;	Site workers to be aware of potential presence of great crested newt and other amphibians and report any sightings to Biodiversity Champion.	During construction	

Works Phase	Relevant Legislation	Ecological Activity	Timeframe/Time of Year	Task Complete (to be completed be contractor)
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities 2006 Section 41.			
Construction	-	Implement all measures within this document to protect GCN during site works.	Entire construction period	

6.0 CONCLUSION

There should be no ecological constraint, including invasive non-native or biosecurity constraints to construction works if the provided RAM's and good practice guidance measures are implemented throughout works. Any queries are to be directed to the relevant contact as detailed in Section 7.

7.0 USEFUL CONTACTS

Table 4 below provides useful local contacts which may be of use.

Table 4: Local contacts of ecological and animal welfare organisations.

Organisation	Contact
Tetra Tech	**Tetra Tech** 2nd Floor 11 York Street Manchester M2 2AW Email: ecology.manchester@tetratech.com Tel: **0161 874 8722**
	Project Ecologist: Bronwyn Dennis Natural Resources Wales (NRW) GCN licence: S094384/1 Phone: 07929101796 Email: BRONWYN.DENNIS@tetratech.com
Local Ecology Records Centre	**Cofnod - North Wales Environmental Information Service** Intec Ffordd y Parc Parc Menai Bangor Gwynedd LL57 4FG Email: record@cofnod.org.uk Tel: **01248 847456**
Wildlife Hospital	**Animal Trust Vets CIC - Wrexham** 31 Caia Rd Wrexham LL13 8DS Tel: **01978 802658**
Local Wildlife Trust	**North Wales Wildlife Trust** Llys Garth Garth Road Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2RT Email: info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk Tel: **01248 351 541**

Document Control			
Version:	**V1**	**Status:**	**FINAL**
Date:	May 2026		

Prepared by:	**Checked by:**	**Approved By:**
Carlos Dolado-Hollyman	**Sam Barnes BSc(Hons) ACIEEM**	**Candice Howe CEcol MCIEEM**
Consultant Ecologist	**Associate Ecologist**	**Associate Director**
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
07/05/2026	**11/05/2026**	**12/05/2026**

REFERENCES

- Natural Resources Wales (2023). Great crested newts licensing. Accessible from: Natural Resources Wales / Great crested newt licensing
- Tetra Tech (2025) – Darland Academy Phase 2, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report
- UK Public General Acts (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Accessible from: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Proposed Plan (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1105-P07 - Phase 2 Works GA)

APPENDIX B: Report Conditions

APPENDIX C: Legislation & Policy

APPENDIX D: Proposed Planting Plan (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1112-P03 - Planting Plan - Phase 2 WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1112-P03 - Planting Plan - Phase 2)

APPENDIX E: Toolbox Talk Sign In

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED PLAN (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1105-P07 - PHASE 2 WORKS GA)

Existing Containers to be Relocated

Proposed Herras line during the works.

New Asphalt Entrance Surface

GK Area
68 x 30m

5x5 40 x 30 Yards
36.5 x 27.5m

Training Grids

5x5 40 x 30 Yards
36.5 x 27.5m

9v9 80 x 50 Yards
73 x 46m

7v7 60 x 40 Yards
55 x 36.5m

11x11 90 x 60 Yards
82.5 x 55m

GK Area
68 x 32.5m

Temporary irrigation tank and pumping system for the establishment of phase 1.

SCHOOL TRAINING AREA 2800m²

Potential location of Dugout to serve 11v11 pitch layout option.

Completed Phase 1 Pitch
11x11 115 x 74 Yards
105 x 68m

Area of embankment 1:3 gradient with a 500mm top level flush with paving surface.

PHASE 2 DRAINAGE ATTENUATION POND AREA
600mm Deep Approx

Area of embankment 1:3 gradient.

Future Irrigation arrangement to be developed.

MILIEU LANDSCAPE DESIGN
Chartered Landscape Architects

Halls Arms Business Centre
Clitheroe Road
Knowle Green
Longridge
Preston
PR3 2YQ

Tel: 0333 242 5109

www.milieulandscape.com

Do NOT Scale From This Drawing.
All dimensions are to be checked on site prior to construction.

The drawing shall only be used for the purpose for which it was prepared. Drawings issued for planning approval shall not be used for the purposes of costing or construction.

NOTES:

> Drawing issued for coordination, to be used for this purpose ONLY.
> All measures and setting out is to be checked on site prior to installation and agreed with LA.
> Drawing to be co-ordinated with the requirements of other disciplines and planning conditions.

1m 5m 10m 15m 20m 30m

NORTH

Rev	Description	Date
P07	Adjusted Pitch Locations	07/10/25
P06	Option for Ph2 Dugout	22/09/25
P05	1ha Boundary	18/08/25
P04	Clouded Area	11/08/25
P03	Updated Central Path	29/07/25
P02	Updated Phase 2 Layout	23/07/25
P01	Information	19/06/25

PURPOSE OF ISSUE
Information

PROJECT
Darland Academy

TITLE
Phase 2 Works GA

CLIENT
Wrexham AFC

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
-	CF	19/06/25

SCALE (@ A1)	PROJECT NUMBER
1 : 500	25239

DRAWING NUMBER
WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1105
S0 P07

APPENDIX B: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Wrexham AFC Limited ("the Client") for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited ("Tetra Tech"). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder's permission.

No liability is accepted or warranty given for; unconfirmed data, third party documents and information supplied to Tetra Tech or for the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report. Tetra Tech does not purport to provide specialist legal, tax or accounting advice.

The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The "shelf life" of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client's instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX C: LEGISLATION & POLICY

Habitats Directive

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, or the 'Habitats Directive', is a European Union directive adopted in 1992 in response to the Bern Convention. Its aims are to protect approximately 220 habitats and 1,000 species listed in its several Annexes.

In the UK, the Habitats Directive is transposed into national law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales, and via the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

The 2018 amendments mainly related to the impact of the *People Over Wind* decision and some implications arising for neighbourhood plan development and a range of other planning tools including Local Development Orders and Permission in Principle – see here for full details:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1307/note/made

The 2019 amendments related to the EU exit. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change.– see here for full details:

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573

The Regulations make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill, disturb or trade in great crested newt.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

This is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in the UK. Since it was first introduced, the Act has been amended several times.

The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any great crested newt;
- interfere with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing great crested newt occupying such places; and
- The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking great crested newt.

Environment (Wales) Act

As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to reversing the decline in biodiversity in Wales and increasing the resilience of its ecosystems, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 aims to build greater resilience into our ecosystems. Biodiversity and well-functioning ecosystems provide natural solutions that build resilience, which in turn help society create jobs, support livelihoods and human well-being, adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and contribute to sustainable development.

Part 1 of the Environment Act sets out Wales' approach to planning and managing natural resources at a national and local level with a general purpose linked to statutory 'principles of sustainable management of natural resources' defined within the Act.

Section 6 under Part 1 of the Act places an enhanced duty on public authorities to 'seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity' so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. In so doing, public authorities must also seek to 'promote the resilience of ecosystems'. This duty replaces the section 40 duty in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act 2006), in relation to Wales, and applies to those authorities that fell within the previous duty.

Section 7 replaces the duty in section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. The Welsh Ministers will publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitat in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales. The Welsh Ministers must also take all reasonable steps to maintain and

enhance the living organisms and types of habitat included in any list published under this section, and encourage others to take such steps. Certain public authorities will also be required to consider the section 7 list, in complying with the new biodiversity duty under section 6 of the Act. The list is important in assisting public bodies to identify potential issues that they may wish to address in meeting their well-being objectives, in addition to contributing to the well-being goal 'a resilient Wales' (Goal 2). The current Section 7 lists are interim lists which are exactly the same as the previous list under Section 42 of the NERC Act, and is under review in consultation with NRW.

Part 1 of the Act, including Sections 6 and 7, came into force on 21st May 2016.

National Planning Policy (Wales)

The national planning policy guidance is found principally in Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (PPW) dated February 2021 (Welsh Government, 2021). The document is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs) with the most relevant for ecology being TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (Welsh Government, 2009), which provides advice on how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. A summary of the main points relevant to the ecological assessment of the development is provided below.

Paragraph 6.4.2 states that local planning authorities, along with other public bodies, as part of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 have a duty to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and help maximise contributions to achieve well-being goals.

Paragraph 6.4.3 states that the planning system has a key role to play in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increasing the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and to secure enhancement. Addressing the consequences of climate change should be a central part of any measures to conserve biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Development plan strategies, policies and development proposals must consider the need to:

- support the conservation of biodiversity, in particular the conservation of wildlife and habitats;
- ensure action in Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for biodiversity and habitats;
- ensure statutorily and non-statutorily designated sites are properly protected and managed;
- safeguard protected and priority species and existing biodiversity assets from impacts which directly affect their nature conservation interests and compromise the resilience of ecological networks and the components which underpin them, such as water and soil, including peat; and
- secure enhancement of and improvements to ecosystem resilience by improving diversity, condition, extent and connectivity of ecological networks.

Paragraph 6.4.4 states that biodiversity and resilience considerations should be taken into account at an early stage in development planning. All reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems which should be balanced with the wider economic and social needs of business and local communities.

Paragraph 6.4.5 states that planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions, and that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity. The diversity of, connections between, the scale, the condition and the adaptability of ecosystems must be taken into account.

Paragraphs 6.4.11, 6.4.14 and 6.4.22 state that planning authorities must have regard to the relative significance of international, national and local designations in considering the weight to be attached to nature conservation interests, and that the international and national responsibilities and obligations for conservation should be fully met. Statutorily designated sites must be protected from damage and deterioration, with their important features conserved and enhanced by appropriate management. Statutorily protected species protected under European or UK legislation, or under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are material considerations if a development would result in disturbance or harm to the species or its habitat, and the range and population of the species should be sustained

Paragraph 6.4.21 states 'Planning authorities must follow a step-wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity and build resilient ecological networks by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for; enhancement must be secured wherever possible'.

Paragraphs 6.4.24-26 also gives emphasis to the importance of trees, hedgerows and woodlands (especially ancient woodland) and states 'Ancient woodland and semi-natural woodlands and individual ancient, veteran and heritage trees are irreplaceable natural resources, and have significant landscape, biodiversity and cultural value. Such trees and woodlands should be afforded protection from development which would result in their loss or deterioration unless there are significant and clearly defined public benefits; this protection should prevent potentially damaging operations and their unnecessary loss. In the case of a site recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, authorities should consider the advice of NRW.'

Related to these Biodiversity and Ecological Network policies, Section 6.2 gives weight to the protection and enhancement of multi-functional green infrastructure, which is important for sustainable management of natural resources. Green infrastructure should be incorporated into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design.

Circular Letter CL-05-04 reaffirmed the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring that designated sites and species of nature conservation importance are protected from damage and deterioration, with their important features conserved by appropriate management. The letter advised that under specific circumstances a pre-commencement condition should be attached to planning consents requiring the applicant to provide the LPA with a copy or their European Protected Species (EPS) Licence (once issued by NRW). The Circular Letter was withdrawn in March 2018 in an attempt to reduce the number of pre-commencement conditions, with LPA's advised to instead use a replacement informative (to be attached to all relevant consent notices) to avoid unnecessary duplication controls of other legislation.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

Some LBAP's may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision-making process.

APPENDIX D: PROPOSED PLANTING PLAN (WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1112-P03 - PLANTING PLAN - PHASE 2)

143 No. Crataegus monogyna 0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset 35%
82 No. Ilex aquifolium 20%
122 No. Prunus spinosa 30%
61 No. Rosa canina 15%
Length = 101.44m

63 No. Crataegus monogyna 0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset 35%
36 No. Ilex aquifolium 20%
54 No. Prunus spinosa 30%
27 No. Rosa canina 15%
Length = 44.62m

100 No. Lotus corniculatus 5/m²
Area = 19.82m²

Phase 2 Area

269 No. Crataegus monogyna 0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset 35%
154 No. Ilex aquifolium 20%
231 No. Prunus spinosa 30%
116 No. Rosa canina 15%
Length = 192.11m

Swale to be constructed here prior to seeding and soiling works. See WAFC-WHE-XX-XX-RP-C-000001 and associated drawings by WillisHazel

48 No. Acer campestre 0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset 20%
48 No. Corylus avellana 20%
60 No. Crataegus monogyna 25%
48 No. Prunus spinosa 20%
36 No. Rosa canina 15%
Length = 39.03m

161 No. Lotus corniculatus 5/m²
Area = 32.19m²

Swale 2

Completed School Training Pitch

Completed Phase 1 Pitch

Swale 1

531 No. Crataegus monogyna 0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset 35%
304 No. Ilex aquifolium 20%
455 No. Prunus spinosa 30%
228 No. Rosa canina 15%
Length = 379.12m

35 No. Alnus glutinosa 1.2Ctr 25%
28 No. Betula pubescens 20%
14 No. Corylus avellana 10%
21 No. Crataegus monogyna 15%
21 No. Quercus robur 15%
7 No. Rosa canina 5%
7 No. Viburnum opulus 5%
7 No. Fagus sylvatica 5%
Area = 197.34m²

131 No. Lotus corniculatus 5/m²
Area = 26.02m²

Hedge Planting List

Trees

Number	Species	Height	Girth	Pot Size	Specification	Density
1006	Crataegus monogyna	150-175cm			RB :Feather :Bushy	0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset
576	Ilex aquifolium	150-175cm		10-15L	C :Feather :Bushy	0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset
862	Prunus spinosa	150-175cm			RB :Feather :Bushy	0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset
48	Acer campestre	80-100cm			BR :Whip :1+1	0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset
60	Crataegus monogyna	80-100cm			BR :Whip :1+1	0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset
48	Prunus spinosa	80-100cm			BR :Whip :1+1	0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset
35	Alnus glutinosa	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
28	Betula pubescens	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
14	Corylus avellana	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
21	Crataegus monogyna	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
21	Quercus robur	60-80cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
7	Rosa canina	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
7	Viburnum opulus	60-90cm			tpt	1.2Ctr
7	Fagus sylvatica	60-80cm			tpt	1.2Ctr

Shrubs

Number	Species	Pot Size	Height	Specification	Density
432	Rosa canina	15-20L	125-150cm	C :Bushy :Caned	0.5Ctr Double Staggered at 0.4m offset
48	Corylus avellana		80-100cm	BR :1+1	0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset
36	Rosa canina		80-100cm	BR :1+1	0.33Ctr Double Staggered at 0.35m offset

Wildflowers

Number	Species	Specification	Density
392	Lotus corniculatus	C :Local or British or Other :Min. 1 Year	5/m²

MILIEU LANDSCAPE DESIGN
Chartered Landscape Architects
Halls Arms Business Centre
Clitheroe Road
Knowle Green
Longridge
Preston
PR3 2YQ
Tel: 0333 242 5109
www.milieulandscape.com

Do NOT Scale From This Drawing.
All dimensions are to be checked on site prior to construction.

The drawing shall only be used for the purpose for which it was prepared. Drawings issued for planning approval shall not be used for the purposes of costing or construction.

Biodiversity features to be delivered and maintained as shown on drawing WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1001 in the area around the cabins.
All engineering of drainage swales and basins are to be as per the drawings provided by the engineering teams;
WAFC-WHE-XX-XX-RP-C-000001
WRX-BHE-DAR-ZZZ-DR-CI-001002
WRX-BHE-DAR-ZZZ-DR-CI-003001
WRX-BHE-DAR-ZZZ-DR-CI-003203
WRX-BHE-DAR-ZZZ-DR-CI-003204

- Area to receive site won topsoil to bring up levels, generally approximately 50-100mm spread over the surface. Levels to tie in to adjacent path edges. See specification for preparation. 1140m2
- Wild flower seed area, low fertility soil area, sandy subsoil spread over the top 75mm, Hedgerows, Margins & Shaded Areas BW9a (Bright Seeds), see notes below and spec. 150m2
- Swale grass land, 100mm site won sand and low fertility soil as engineering drawings, seeded with Emorsgate EM8 Mixture for Wetlands. See specification for preparation. 2500m2
- Low management grass areas, implemented for biodiversity, Germinal A4 seed mixture to be supplemented with Bird's Foot Trefoil and Yellow Rattle. See specification for preparation. 4000m2
- Proposed new hedgerow planting, mixture of native spiked species. 4/m 500mm spacing double row. Planted at minimum 1.2m to give instant impact. See planting notes for detail.
- Proposed timber and stock wire fencing. To provide a reinforced line to assist with the growth of the hedging. See specification for detail.

NOTES:

> Drawing issued for Tender, to be used for this purpose ONLY.
> All measures and setting out is to be checked on site prior to installation and agreed with LA.
> Drawing to be coordinated with the requirements of other disciplines and planning conditions.
> Technical and engineering works by others, see above drawing series and associated additional information for reference.

1m 5m 10m 15m 20m 30m

NORTH

Rev	Description	Date
P03	Tanks and other updates	12/06/26
P02	Tender Issue	12/01/26
P01	Information	08/12/25

PURPOSE OF ISSUE
PLANNING

PROJECT
Darland Academy

TITLE
Phase 2 Works Landscaping

CLIENT
Wrexham AFC

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
-	CF	08/126/25

SCALE (@ A1): 1 : 500
PROJECT NUMBER: 25239
DRAWING NUMBER: WRX-MLD-XX-XX-DR-L-1112
S0 P03

APPENDIX E: TOOLBOX SIGN IN

Name	Date	Signature