

Great Crested Newt Statement

Planning Application: King George V Playing Fields SuDS Scheme

Date: 14 October 2025

Site Location: King George V Playing Fields, Wokingham

Risk Zone: Amber (as identified on Wokingham Planning Constraints Map)

This statement is submitted in support of the proposed installation of a French drain and two rain gardens at the above site. The site lies within an Amber Risk Zone for Great Crested Newts (GCNs), indicating moderate potential for GCN presence.

The proposed works are of low ecological impact and are designed to enhance site drainage. The following considerations apply:

1. Habitat Type

- The site comprises modified grassland with no priority habitat features.
- No ponds or water bodies are present within or adjacent to the working area.

2. Nature of Works

- Installation of a French drain and two vegetated rain gardens.
- Works are confined to existing open grassland and avoid tree root zones.
- No barriers to amphibian movement will be introduced.

3. Ecological Impact

- The SuDS features are permeable and vegetated, supporting biodiversity.
- No known GCN breeding sites will be affected.
- The works do not require a protected species licence.

Conclusion:

Based on the low-impact nature of the works, absence of breeding habitat, and location within an Amber Risk Zone, the proposed development is not expected to adversely affect Great Crested Newts. This statement is provided to satisfy planning validation requirements.