

# Great Crested Newt Statement

Date: 17 October 2025

Address: 303 Reading Road, Winnersh, Wokingham RG41 5LR

Applicant: Mrs S Kaur Vig

## 1. Background

This statement is submitted in support of a planning application to subdivide the existing dwelling to form an annex for a disabled family member and to construct a new annex at the end of the rear garden. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate consideration of potential impacts on Great Crested Newts (GCN) and to satisfy Wokingham Borough Council 's validation requirement for developments within or near a GCN Impact Risk Zone.

## 2. Site Location and Description

The property comprises an existing detached dwelling, paved driveway, and a rear garden bordered by conifer trees and domestic fencing. The site is within a built-up residential area of Winnersh with maintained lawns and hardstanding. No ponds or ditches are present on or immediately adjacent to the site.

## 3. Great Crested Newt Impact Risk Zone Assessment

Based on the Wokingham Borough Council Planning Constraints Map (Ecology and Environmental layers enabled), the entirety of 303 Reading Road lies within an amber Great Crested Newt Impact Risk Zone as identified by the NatureSpace Partnership. This categorisation reflects the wider ecological potential of the area rather than site-specific habitat quality. The plot itself comprises managed garden and hardstanding, with no aquatic features. The surrounding context includes substantial barriers to amphibian movement, notably the Reading Road to the north and the M4 motorway to the south, both of which significantly limit potential newt migration from any off-site ponds. The nearest mapped ponds remain over 250 metres from the site boundary.

## 4. Assessment of Likelihood of Impact

The likelihood of Great Crested Newt presence within the application boundary is considered very low. The site is fully enclosed by residential development and garden fencing, and is separated from potential breeding ponds by major roads and the M4 motorway, which represent impermeable barriers to amphibian dispersal. Consequently, no functional connectivity exists between the site and known GCN breeding habitats.

## 5. Avoidance and Precautionary Measures

Although the likelihood of presence is low, the following reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) will be implemented to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation:Groundworks and vegetation clearance will occur during daylight hours, ideally between March and October when GCN are active. Vegetation and debris will be cleared gradually to allow any fauna to disperse naturally. Any open excavations will include an escape ramp if left overnight. If any amphibian resembling a Great Crested Newt is encountered, works will cease immediately and advice from an ecologist or Natural England will be sought.

## 6. Conclusion

Although the site is located within an amber Great Crested Newt Impact Risk Zone, it provides negligible terrestrial or aquatic habitat and is physically separated from suitable breeding sites by both Reading Road and the M4 motorway. The proposed development will not result in habitat loss or fragmentation relevant to GCN. Implementation of the reasonable avoidance measures detailed in this statement is considered proportionate, and this document should therefore satisfy Wokingham Borough Council's validation requirements without the need for district licensing through the NatureSpace Partnership.