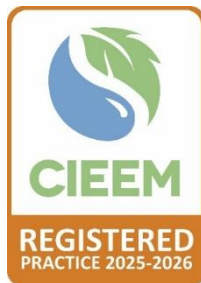


**31 Allnatt Avenue,
Winnersh,
RG41 5AU**

**REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES
FOR**

GREAT CRESTED NEWT

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Prepared by

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SUMMARY

A reasonable avoidance measures (RAM) strategy was created to ensure that no harm /unforeseen impacts on any great crested populations in the vicinity of 31 Allnatt Avenue, Winnersh, RG41 5AU (GR:SU782703) and provides recommendations to ensure that the works can reasonably avoid or mitigate for any such effects.

A site visit was conducted on the 3rd September 2025 and background data search was also undertaken to obtain records for sites in the area.

The habitats in proximity of the property are very hostile to amphibians with the land to the north dominated by an extensive supermarket car park with the busy Kings Street land and Reading Roads to the west and east respectively.

The wooded areas to the south provides the only suitable foraging habitat to sustain a breeding population and this is separated from the garden by the open mown island area which is enclosed inside Allnatt Avenue itself, heavily used parking areas as well as numerous small private gardens. The nearest marked pond is a balancing pond beside the M4 523m to the southwest and the nearest GCN return form over 600m to the southeast over the M4. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that GCN will be adversely impacted.

However, protocols to ensure that surface refugia are not created on site are included.

EXPERTISE

Dr. Jonty Denton Bsc (Hons) D(Phil) FRES FLS CEcol MCIEEM has studied and held handling licenses for Great Crested Newts since 1985. He produced the then largest countywide study of the species (Denton, J. (1991) The distribution and breeding site characteristics of newts (*Triturus* species) in Cumbria, England. *Herpetological Journal*. **1**: 12, 549-554. He has carried out over 100 population assessments and translocation projects across England & Wales, relocating over 6600 GCN and establishing over a dozen new self-sustaining populations.

INTRODUCTION

Site Proposals

The proposals for the site would be redevelopment of the existing utility room and a modest ground floor extension to the rear of the structure. The latter will require groundworks impacting the existing flagged patio area. The works would entail erecting scaffolding around along the eastern and southern sides (on a gravel pathway) and on the northern side on paths and patio.

The foundation work along the east elevation would be dug in line with the existing widest part of the utility room. The northern part of the extension foundations would be dug into the existing mown lawn annexe.

Background Data Search

A desk-based assessment was carried out using the DEFRA MagicMap website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx> to identify where GCN returns have been made in the area.

Great Crested Newts are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2010 from intentional killing and injury and from intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter. In addition Great Crested Newts and Common Toads are UK BAP Priority species and SPI.

According to DEFRA's MagicMap the nearest GCN return is from 892m to the Southeast, but the site falls within Wokingham Borough Council GCN Impact risk zone. The nearest marked pond is a balancing pond beside the M4 523m to the southwest.

RAM (REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES)

Timing of works

In the unlikely event a GCN is found works should be stopped and a qualified ecologist holding a GCN handling license should be contacted.

Work protocols

The grounds are hostile to amphibians with no potential refugia present.

Building materials should be stacked only on hard standing areas and should be placed on pallets off the floor. Materials arising from foundation trenching should be removed ASAP, if temporary storage is unavoidable be placed on sheeting with sufficient area to be foldable back over the debris to prevent any animals entering the spoil.

No debris piles should be left onsite which could be utilised as refugia by amphibians, a skip should be employed throughout.

REFERENCES

English Nature (2001). *Great crested newt mitigation guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.

JNCC (1998) *Herpetofauna Workers' Manual*. JNCC, Peterborough.