

GCN Statement – Day 2 Works, Earley East Building, Reading.

Non-licensed Avoidance Measures for Great Crested Newts

It is considered that there is only a low risk that individual great crested newts could be present in the small landscaped area around on the south west elevation of the property, so the work could go ahead lawfully. In order to minimise the small risk of harming great crested newts, the following avoidance measures will be adopted:

Any vegetation in the construction area will be kept closely mown. There is already an existing landscaping maintenance contract in place with routine gardening carried out to the subject area.

- During the course of the construction work;
- During the course of construction, any open excavations and trenches will be backfilled before nightfall, or alternatively, escape ramps will be installed to allow newts to escape if they become trapped;
- Any stored building materials such as bricks etc. that might offer shelter for newts will be kept raised off the ground on pallets or on existing hard standing.

In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is found during the construction, works will stop immediately, and a licensed ecologist will be called onto site to ensure the newt is not harmed and provide further advice on how to proceed; work will recommence only once further written advice has been received.