

12th November 2025

Development Management
Wokingham Borough Council
Civic Offices, Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1BN

Ecology Statement

Dear Wokingham Planning Department,

Please find this ecology statement regarding safeguarding of Great Crested Newts in relation to our application submitted for White Cottage Bearwood Path, Winnersh, Wokingham RG41 5EY.

No amphibian surveys were undertaken in support of this planning application for the following reasons:

- The land affected by the proposal is primarily covered by existing hardstanding and gravel which is unsuitable habitat for great crested newts and has little to no ecological value.
- The proposal is located with an existing cluster of residential dwellings surrounded by roads. The pond in question is approximately 90m to the north of the site. Between the pond and the site is a private drive to numbers 1-6 Lockyer Close, the road of Lockyer Close and Bearwood Path. This likelihood of any newt travelling this route across that many drives and roads is highly unlikely.

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement

The garden of White Cottage is considered to have minimal great crested newt refuge, foraging or hibernation potential being of close maintained lawn and an existing hardstanding. Any potential habitats would more likely be located to the front of the site on the opposite side of the property from the proposed works. Whilst the site is within 100mm of a pond, the absence of suitable habitat features and the barriers provided by roads reduces the likelihood of great crested newts entering the site.

Precautionary Measures:

- All site personnel will receive a tool box talk during their site induction delivered by a suitably qualified ecologist to include details of the potential presence of great crested newts and what to do in the event they are discovered during the works on site
- Materials will be stored on site on hard standing or on areas of closely mown lawn
- Stored items will be raised off the ground on pallets to remove any potential habitats or refuge for great crested newts
- Areas of grass around pallets will be kept short and maintained to remove any potential habitats or refuge for great crested newts

Avoiding Unlawful Capture

Great crested newts could be become trapped in footings or other excavations if the following precautions are not taken:

- Footings not to be left unfilled over night or, if this is not possible, earth ramps must be created to allow for great crested newts to climb out easily

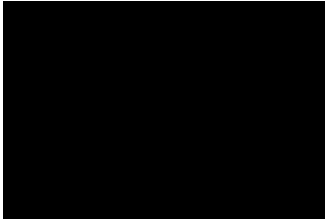
- Principal contractor to inspect the site each morning to ensure great crested newts are not trapped in excavations or site materials

IF GREAT CRESTED NEWTS ARE FOUND DURING INSPECTING THE SITE, WORK MUST STOP AND NOT CONTINUE UNTIL A SUITABLY QUALIFIED ECOLOGIST HAS BEEN CONTACTED FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

Given the above mitigation strategies, it is considered likely that there will be no residual impacts on great crested newts.

If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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