

09th December 2025

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

Newt Avoidance Statement

Dear Wokingham Planning Department,

Please find this statement regarding the safeguarding of great crested newts in relation to our application submitted for **Damsonwell, Barn Farm, Wokingham Road, RG10 0RX**.

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 an existing patio.
- The area affected, being an existing patio and maintained lawn, is an unsuitable habitat for great crested newts and is considered to have little to no ecological value.

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement

The garden of Damsonwell around the area affected by the works is considered to have no great crested newt refuge, foraging, or hibernation potential, consisting of closely maintained lawn and an existing patio. Any potential habitats are located at the opposite end of the site, which will be unaffected by the works. That being said, with materials being stored on site, it is important to set out measures to reduce any risks to potential great crested newts.

Precautionary Measures:

- Materials will be stored on site on hardstanding or on areas of closely mown lawn.
- Stored items will be raised off the ground on pallets to remove any potential habitats or refuges for great crested newts.
- Areas of grass around pallets will be kept short and maintained to remove any potential habitats or refuges for great crested newts.

Avoiding Unlawful Capture

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

- Footings must not be left unfilled overnight. If this is not possible, earth ramps must be created to allow great crested newts to climb out easily.
- The principal contractor must 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 SITE INSPECTIONS, WORK MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY AND MUST NOT RESUME 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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