

12th December 2024

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

Great Crested Newt Avoidance Statement

Dear Wokingham Planning Department,

Please find this avoidance statement regarding safeguarding of Great Crested Newts in relation to our application submitted for High Chimneys North RG10 0TH.

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

- The area affected by the proposal is a side extension to the garage which currently resides on a gravel front drive which is an unsuitable habitat for great crested newts and has little to no ecological value

Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) Method Statement

The courtyard driveway which consists of gravel is considered to have no great crested newt refuge, foraging or hibernation potential. Any potential habitat for great crested newts is to the rear gardens and boundaries of the site away from the development.

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 (gravel driveway);
- Stored items will be raised off the ground on pallets to remove any potential habitats or refuge for great crested newts
- Areas of gravel around pallets will be kept clear and maintained to remove any potential habitats or refuge 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:

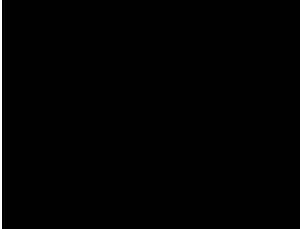
- Footings not to be left unfilled over night or, if this is not possible, earth ramps must be created to allow for great crested newts to climb out easily
- Principal contractor to inspect the site each morning to ensure great crested newts are not trapped in excavations or site materials

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,



James Taylor BA (Hons) MArch PG DipArch ARB RIBA
Architectural Director

JETArch Design