

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

DAMSONWELL
BARN FARM

17th August 2026: Damsonwell Newt Avoidance

To whom it may concern,

This is the statement regarding the plans for Great Crested Newt (GCN) safeguarding in relation to the works requested within the planning application for Damsonwell, Barn Farm, Wokingham Road, Hurst, Reading RG10 0RX.

No survey pertaining to GCNs has been undertaken on this property, because the area related to the proposed works is not within 50m of a pond, and contains mainly a patio alongside a short & maintained lawn, considered to be unsuitable habitat for Great Crested Newts refuge, hibernation or foraging, and of little to no ecological value.

Regardless, with all materials for the works being stored on site, great care will be taken to reduce risks to GCNs, please see below.

Precautionary Measures to be undertaken throughout all works:

- Any stored materials will be raised on pallets above ground to remove the risk of habitats or refuges.
- Materials will all be stored on hardstanding or closely mown lawn.
- Any lawn or grass around the pallets will be kept well maintained and short to further avoid risk of habitats or refuges.

Avoiding Unlawful Capture

To avoid GCNs becoming trapped in footings or other excavations, the following precautions will be taken:

- Footings won't be left unfilled overnight.
- If the above isn't possible, earth ramps will be added to allow the GCNs to climb out.
- The principle contractor will inspect closely each morning to ensure no GCNs are present or trapped.
- If any GCNs are found during any of the site inspections or at any other time during the work, work will stop immediately and won't resume until a qualified ecologist has given advice on how to continue.

Given these plans & strategies, it's considered likely to have no impact on GCNs.

Kind regards,
Francesca & Luke Parsons
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