



Russell Richards
Castle Farm
Felsham
Suffolk
IP30 0PT

Date: 4th July 2023

Re: Great Crested Newt Non-Licensable Mitigation Strategy for Proposed Development at Castle Farm, Felsham, Suffolk. IP30 0PT.

*Proposal: Application for replacement of a woven wattle wicker fence with a brick wall.
Application: DC/23/00676 (Condition 3).*

Introduction

As a condition of planning consent, a Great Crested Newt Non-Licensable Mitigation Strategy is required for the replacement of a woven wattle wicker fence with a brick wall. The report is required due to the close proximity of a garden pond. The presence or absence of great crested newts has not been confirmed, though given the presence of high fish numbers, the likelihood is great crested newts are absent.

This report has been produced by experienced ecologist Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM (licensed to survey for bats- level 2 and great crested newt- level 1).

Non-Licensable Mitigation

The following will be undertaken to minimise the risk of impact or harm to great crested newts. The mitigation will also serve to minimise the risk of impact to other amphibians and other notable wildlife such as hedgehogs etc.

- Before construction commences, vegetation close to the fence will be maintained short with regular cutting to prevent the site improving in ecological value for wildlife;
- During works waste materials will be removed off site immediately to prevent wildlife using the materials for shelter and being harmed by subsequent movement;
- Construction materials will be stored on hardstanding or on pallets to prevent wildlife from sheltering in the materials and being harmed by movement of the materials;
- No construction work at night when amphibians are mostly active;

- To ensure the pond and pond bank will not be impacted during works, temporary fencing such as heras fencing (or similar) will be installed between the pond and the construction zone during works;
- Any excavations for the development will be covered at night or should have one gently sloping end to allow for escape of any wildlife which falls in;
- If at any stage amphibians or other notable wildlife are observed on the site, works will stop immediately, and the animal will be allowed to disperse of its own accord, or an Ecologist will be contacted for advice.

The applicant and landowner Russell Richards is responsible for following this report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Spring', written over a horizontal line.

Roger Spring BSc MCIEEM

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Figures

Figure 1: Proposed development.

