

Applicant: Elizabeth Hough ⁽²⁷⁵⁸⁾
Application: Planning - Change of Use to Equestrian and Siting of New Stables ⁽¹¹⁷⁸³⁾
Property: 22 Acre Paddock, Cheddington Road, Mentmore, LU7 0QG
Date: 28 July 2023
Reference: 2758/11783/008



NEWT PRECAUTIONARY WORKING METHOD STATEMENT

The following provides the reasonable avoidance measures for great crested newts for the development of stables at 22 Acre Paddock, Cheddington Road, Mentmore, LU7 0QG in order to avoid conflicts with the legal protection afforded to great crested newt. This Precautionary Working Method Statement has been produced following advice from the Buckinghamshire Newt Officer.

Construction impacts

Potential impacts include direct harm, injury and / or death to individuals.

Mitigation

The following precautions in regards to great crested newts will be carried out and followed on site:

- A toolbox talk will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to works for all site workers/contractor(s) undertaking works. Further talks may be required as and when workers start on-site throughout the lifetime of the project. The toolbox talk will cover:
 - Identification and ecology great crested newts;
 - Habitat utilised by the protected species;
 - The high level of legal protection afforded to the protected species and the criminal sanctions that can be imposed if the relevant law is broken, including fines and imprisonment;
 - A clear instruction that if any protected species is seen, or if any other animal which could be a protected species is seen, then the Site Manager is immediately informed and that he or she immediately stops all works and informs the Ecologist;
 - The role of the licensed Ecologist;
 - The details of the method statement and the need for supervision of some works by an ecologist; and
 - Procedures for contractors to follow in the unlikely event that any protected species is encountered during works when the ecologist is not present.
- Site clearance will be undertaken outside of the amphibian hibernation season (November to February).
- Any vegetation due for clearance will be cut no lower than 150mm high using hand tools only, or kept close cut from February onwards prior to work commencing, to deter any species from using it as cover, and to make it easier to find any that may be present.
- No excavations are to be left open overnight. If this is not feasible a plank must be left within the excavation at a 45 degree angle to allow amphibians and other wildlife to escape. Any open excavations must be checked for trapped wildlife in the morning prior to start of works on site.
- Materials stored on site or arising from site preparatory works and the during the construction phase must be stored off the ground and elevated in order to prevent GCN from using them as potential places of rest.
- Materials arising from site preparatory works must be dismantled and removed by hand if not removed from the site immediately.
- Concrete will not be left unset overnight, or suitable barriers erected to prevent newts accessing the concrete.

Applicant: Elizabeth Hough ⁽²⁷⁵⁸⁾
Application: Planning - Change of Use to Equestrian and Siting of New Stables ⁽¹¹⁷⁸³⁾
Date: 28 July 2023



- Excavations and working areas will be managed so as not to create temporary waterbodies which may attract newts onto the site.
- Any common amphibians observed within the working area are to be translocated to an area of suitable habitat outside of the working area. Suitable habitat to translocate to includes the dense scrub surrounding Pond 1 and the base of hedgerows at the site boundaries.

Procedure to follow if a great crested newt is identified:

- If a great crested newt is discovered at the site all works must cease immediately and Natural England and/or a great crested newt licenced ecologist must be contacted immediately to provide further advice. UES can be contacted directly on 01565 757788.
- A licence might be required before works can recommence. If so, procedures will be followed to obtain a Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) or Buckinghamshire Council's Organisational District Licence for the works.