

Liz Lord Ecology



Tannington Lodge Barns, Tannington

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

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Figure 1A: Site Location Plan

Figure 1B: Survey Boundary and Site Boundary

Figure 2: GCN exclusion fencing location

Figure 3: GCN exclusion fencing specification



1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The site (located at central grid ref: TM 25453 67788) was found to comprise a single storey former agricultural building on a concrete base, surrounded by bare ground and short patchy grass. A small area of scrub stands at the eastern end of the site. Planning permission is being sought for building works to facilitate the change of use from an agricultural building to a flexible commercial use, as approved under a previous Class R application.
- 1.2 The building was assessed as being of 'negligible' suitability for roosting bats, with no evidence of the presence of bats recorded, and no further surveys deemed necessary.
- 1.3 There is very low potential for great crested newts to be present within the working areas immediately surrounding the buildings, and the potential for great crested newts to be disturbed or harmed during works can be further reduced by following the Precautionary Method Statement provided in Appendix 3. Subject to all measures in the PMS being followed, no further survey or mitigation is required with respect to great crested newts. In the event that a great crested newt is discovered on site at any time during construction, all works must cease and an ecologist contacted for further advice.
- 1.4 The building provides potential habitat for nesting birds. Ideally works to the building would be carried out during September to February inclusive to avoid the bird nesting season, however where this is not possible, immediately prior to commencement of works a check for nesting birds should be undertaken by a suitably experienced ecologist. Any active nests will need to be left in situ until the young have left the nest.
- 1.5 The site is not deemed suitable for any other protected species and no further survey or mitigation is required with respect to protected species.
- 1.6 The enhancement measures detailed in section 6.0 should result in a minor enhancement for nesting and roosting barn owls, roosting bats, and nesting house sparrow at the site scale.



2.0 INTRODUCTION

Instruction

2.1 This report has been prepared by Liz Lord following instruction by Mr B Scopes of Black Rooster Construction Ltd to carry out an ecological appraisal of an outbuilding at Tannington Lodge Barns, Dennington Road, Tannington, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7NN.

Site Proposals

2.2 Planning permission is being sought for building works to facilitate the change of use from an agricultural building to a flexible commercial use, as approved under a previous Class R application.

Site Description

- 2.3 The building lies between the villages of Dennington and Worlingworth, approximately 5km to the north west of Framlingham, Suffolk. It is located immediately to the east of an existing and ongoing barn conversion, and to the north east of Tannington Lodge. Beyond the building to the north and south are areas of neutral grassland, with arable fields offsite to the east. Beyond the here, the surrounding landscape is dominated by arable fields with boundary hedgerows and trees.
- 2.4 Aerial site location plans are provided below and overleaf.



Fig 1A: Site location, as indicated by red arrow. Aerial photograph sourced from Google Earth Pro





Fig 1B: Site boundary highlighted red. Aerial photograph sourced from Google Earth Pro; however note that the photograph is out of date and not indicative of conditions on the ground

Objectives

- 2.5 This report has been written broadly in accordance with the report writing guidelines produced by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (CIEEM 2018, 2017a, 2017b). In accordance with the client brief, this survey and report aims to:
- 2.5.1 Where possible, identify and describe all potentially significant ecological effects on protected and notable species / sites associated with the proposals;
- 2.5.2 Where possible, set out the mitigation measures required to ensure compliance with nature conservation legislation and address any potentially significant ecological effects;
- 2.5.3 Identify how mitigation measures will / could be secured;
- 2.5.4 Provide an assessment of the significance of any residual effects;
- 2.5.5 Identify appropriate enhancement measures; and
- 2.5.6 Where deemed necessary, set out the requirements for post construction monitoring.
- 2.6 This survey and report is intended to inform, as necessary, the layout and design of the proposals, future landscape design and management on site, and where required the methodology and timing of development works.



Timescales

- 2.7 The construction period is expected to be around 6 months following the granting of relevant permissions.
- 2.8 This report is valid for a period of 18 months from the date of survey. Beyond this time, changes to the building and vegetation may have occurred which could require reassessment and potentially further survey to re-determine the presence / likely absence of protected species.

Relevant Documents

- 2.9 The site assessment was based upon drawing number PW1327_PL02revD dated November 2023 by Peter Wells Architects, as shown in Appendix 1. Note that any minor amendments to the overall scheme are unlikely to alter the conclusions and recommendations of this report.
- 2.10 Recommendations included within this report are the professional opinion of an experienced ecologist based on the client's proposals for the site, the site surveys, the results of the desk study, and features present in the surrounding environment.



3.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

- 3.1 The Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was consulted on 2nd February 2024 to determine the presence of any nationally and internationally designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites within influencing distance of the proposals.
- 3.2 The MAGIC website was also used to search for any records of European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licences that have been approved by Natural England within a 5km radius of the application site since late 2008 (last updated January 2022). The website was checked for any data from Natural England's great crested newt eDNA Habitat Suitability Index pond surveys for District Level Licensing 2017-2019 (last updated December 2023); and data from Natural England great crested newt Class Survey Licence returns within a 5km radius of the site (last updated December 2023).
- 3.3 Due to the small size of the proposals, the low ecological value of the habitats present, the very limited potential for protected or notable species to be present onsite, and the very limited potential for the site or any land within the potential Zone of Influence to form part of a County Wildlife Site, a records search with the Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) was not undertaken. This is not considered to be a limitation to the conclusions and recommendations of this report.

Site Survey

- 3.4 A daytime site survey and detailed building inspection was carried out on 1st February 2024. The survey was based upon the standard methodology for Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys (JNCC 2010) and the UK Habitat Classification system (UKHab Ltd 2023). The relative abundance of individual plant species was recorded, and habitats were classified according to the abundance of plant species present. Any evidence of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed was noted.
- 3.5 The survey encompassed all land within the red line boundary as shown in Figure 1B, plus land immediately adjacent to the site, where accessible or visible.
- 3.6 The survey also included an assessment of the site's potential to support any legally protected species; or Species and Habitats of Principal Importance, as identified by Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Where best practice guidelines exist, these have been used to assess the likelihood that individual species will be present, for example Bat Surveys: Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, J. 2023) and Habitat Suitability Index for Great Crested Newt (Oldham et al., 2000).



- 3.7 Using criteria provided in best practice guidelines, habitats have been assessed for their potential to support protected species; notably bats, barn owls *Tyto alba*, badgers *Meles meles*, great crested newts *Triturus cristatus*, reptiles, water voles *Arvicola amphibius*, dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* and otters *Lutra lutra*.
- 3.8 Where methodologies, classification or recommendations deviate from best practice guidelines, this report provides ecological justification for such changes.

Building Inspection

- 3.9 The building was surveyed and assessed in accordance with criteria outlined in Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (Collins, J. 2023).
- 3.10 The internal and external inspections of the building were carried out using as necessary a powerful torch, a ladder, a pair of Nikon 12 x 50 binoculars and an Easyview 8mm digital recording endoscope to inspect gaps and crevices for bats and evidence of bats.
- 3.11 Floors, walls and storage surfaces beneath all possible access points or crevices which may be used for roosting were checked for droppings, scratching and urine or fur staining, and particular attention was paid to the areas beneath tie beams from which bats may hang or rest.
- 3.12 The beams, barge boards and door / window frames of the building were specifically checked for scratching and staining, as well as roosting bats. Particular attention was paid to any gaps in and around structural beams, roofs and walls; and the walls, ledges and ground area below.
- 3.13 The floor surfaces comprised relatively clean concrete, and at the time of inspection the building did not appear to have been recently swept or cleared.

Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment

- 3.14 For each accessible and / or relevant water body located within potential influencing distance of the construction zone boundary (generally <250m in this case), a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment was carried out, following methods described in Oldham R.S. et al. (2000).
- 3.15 Features such as shading, water quality, terrestrial habitat, fish and fowl presence were noted during the survey. These features were used in the HSI to assess the potential of the ponds to support great crested newts. Following the survey, the HSI field scores are inserted into a table to calculate a score for each pond, with pond suitability for great crested newts assessed on the following scale:



| HSI Score | Pond Suitability |
|------------|------------------|
| < 0.5 | Poor |
| 0.5 – 0.59 | Below Average |
| 0.6 – 0.69 | Average |
| 0.7 – 0.79 | Good |
| >0.8 | Excellent |

Surveyors

- 3.16 The survey was carried out by Liz Lord. Liz has been a professional ecologist since 2005, and holds current Natural England licences to survey bats Class Licence Reg. No. 2015-13305-CLS-CLS; great crested newts Class Licence Reg. No. 2020-44816-CLS-CLS; and barn owls Class Licence Reg. No. CL29/00160. Liz is a full member of CIEEM.
- 3.17 The weather at the time of the survey was sunny with a temperature of 9°C and a light breeze (BF 1-2).

Zone of Influence

- 3.18 The potential impacts of a development are not always limited to the boundaries of the site concerned, such as where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries. In order for the proposed works to have an impact on habitats and species outside of the site boundaries, there needs to be a source of impact, a pathway and a receptor for that impact.
- 3.19 The Zone of Influence will vary for different habitats and species depending on their sensitivity to predicted impacts, the distribution and status of the relevant species, whether a species is mobile, migratory, and whether its presence and activity varies according to the seasons.
- 3.20 An assessment of the Zone of Influence has been made based on the site boundaries shown in Figure 1B, and where necessary recommendations to avoid any significant adverse impacts beyond the site boundaries have been provided in section 5.0.

Limitations

3.21 The conclusions in this report are based on the best information available during the reported period of survey.



- 3.22 Ecological surveys provide only a 'snapshot' of the site in time, and many species, such as bats and badgers, are capable of colonising a site in a very short space of time. Lack of evidence of a species at the time of survey can only allow conclusion of the *likely* absence of this species, since no level of survey effort is capable of proving absence beyond doubt.
- 3.23 Whilst best efforts have been made to identify all water bodies within 250m of the site, it is not always possible to record all garden ponds using Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography. Additional search effort with respect to garden ponds is likely to be disproportionate, as many garden ponds have limited suitability for great crested newts, and it is a common constraint associated with all Ecological Assessments.
- 3.24 The survey was undertaken at a time of year when some plant species are not present above ground, or are simply not easily recorded; however an overall assessment of the flora communities present at the time of survey has been used to assess the likelihood of the unrecorded presence of any plant species of conservation importance. In addition, very little vegetation was present within the proposed working zone, and the vegetation on the eastern side of the wider site is to be retained and undisturbed.
- 3.25 The HSI assessment was undertaken at a suboptimal time of year with respect to vegetation growth, and to allow for this, a cover of 10% aquatic vegetation has been assumed. Given the highest possible categorisation of the water body in this case (i.e. 'excellent' suitability for great crested newts), this is not considered to be a significant constraint to the conclusions and recommendations.

Geographic Context

- 3.26 Where applicable, the importance of each ecological feature has been considered in a geographic context as follows:
 - International and European
 - National
 - Regional
 - Metropolitan, County, vice-county or other local authority-wide area
 - River Basin District
 - Estuarine system/Coastal cell
 - Local (further categorized into District, Borough or Parish)
 - Site

Assessment of Impacts and Effects

3.27 The following definitions are used for the terms 'impact' and 'effect' in accordance with CIEEM (2018) guidelines:



- Impact actions resulting in changes to an ecological feature
- Effect outcome to an ecological feature from an impact
- 3.28 The importance of any ecological feature has been determined via the site surveys detailed in this report. Note that species and habitats afforded legal protection are, by default, always considered within the EcIA assessment process to be 'important'.
- 3.29 Potential impacts of the proposals on any such features have been assessed based on the client proposals for the site, and following a review of all phases of the project. Impacts are assessed through consideration of the extent, magnitude, duration, reversibility, timing and frequency of works which may result in likely 'significant' impacts to any ecological features present. The route through which impacts may occur (direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative) has also been considered. Positive impacts are assessed as well as negative.
- 3.30 The results of the surveys have been used to identify any potentially significant impacts in the absence of any avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures. Any such appropriate measures have then been proposed where necessary.

Characterisation of Ecological Impacts

- 3.31 When considering ecological impacts and effects, the following characteristics have been considered:
 - positive or negative
 - extent
 - magnitude
 - duration
 - frequency and timing
 - reversibility
- 3.32 Where various characteristics have not been specifically referred to in this report, they have been considered insignificant or irrelevant to that specific feature.
- 3.33 A 'significant effect' is defined within the current CIEEM guidelines (2018) as: "an effect that either supports or undermines biodiversity conservation objectives for 'important ecological features' or for biodiversity in general. Conservation objectives may be specific (e.g. for a designated site) or broad (e.g. national/local nature conservation policy) or more wideranging (enhancement of biodiversity). Effects can be considered significant at a wide range of scales from international to local."
- 3.34 Where a significant effect is predicted, this requires assessment and reporting in order to provide the decision maker with sufficient information to determine the environmental consequences of a project. A significant effect can be either positive or negative, and its



extent will determine the requirement of conditions, restrictions or monitoring works.

- 3.35 The current CIEEM guidelines (2018) also state that: "After assessing the impacts of the proposal, all attempts should be made to avoid and mitigate ecological impacts. Once measures to avoid and mitigate ecological impacts have been finalised, assessment of the residual impacts should be undertaken to determine the significance of their effects on ecological features. Any residual impacts that will result in effects that are significant, and the proposed compensatory measures, will be the factors considered against ecological objectives (legislation and policy) in determining the outcome of the application."
- 3.36 This report has taken into account the factors detailed above for each important ecological feature in the absence of mitigation. Recommendations have then been made with respect to avoidance / mitigation / compensation / enhancement as necessary, and an assessment of the residual impacts after such measures has been made.

Mitigation Hierarchy

- 3.37 In order to minimise the likelihood of any significant negative residual effects on environmental features, this assessment has followed the mitigation hierarchy (listed below in order of preference):
 - Avoidance measures that avoid harm to ecological features, both spatially and temporally;
 - Mitigation avoidance or minimisation of negative effects through appropriate timing
 of works, or the provision of mitigation measures within the scheme design which can
 be guaranteed by condition or similar;
 - Compensation measures taken to offset residual effects which result in the loss of, or permanent damage to, ecological features despite mitigation;
 - Enhancement measures to provide net benefits for biodiversity, either by improved
 management of existing features, or the provision of new features, and over and
 above that which is required to mitigate / compensate for an impact. Delivery should
 be secured via planning condition or similar.

Legislation and Policy

- 3.38 Specific reference has been made to the individual legal protection of the species detailed within this report, however additional information with respect to other relevant legislation and planning policy is provided in section 8.0.
- 3.39 The legislation of particular relevance within the body of this report is the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). The former confers legal protection to 'European' Protected Species against both disturbance and harm, and extends to the full protection of their habitats. This



- legislation also provides legal protection for a number of internationally designated sites within the UK, and remains in place following Brexit.
- 3.40 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is UK specific, and generally only provides protection against direct harm to individuals of a species.



4.0 RESULTS (Baseline Conditions)

Site Summary

4.1 The site comprises a single storey former agricultural building on a concrete base, surrounded by bare ground and short patchy grass, with a small area of scrub at the eastern end of the site.

Desk Study: Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 The MAGIC website indicates that there are no statutory designated sites of national or international importance within potential influencing distance of the site.
- 4.3 The site is not located within any Impact Risk Zones of relevance to the proposals, which comprise the change of use from an agricultural building to a flexible commercial use.

Desk Study: Non-Statutory Designated Sites

4.4 It is very unlikely that there are any County Wildlife Sites located within direct influencing distance of the proposals, which are not expected to have any adverse effects beyond the red line boundary.

Habitats

<u>Invasive species</u>

4.5 No aerial evidence of Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* was recorded within the site or the immediately adjacent areas at the time of survey.

<u>Artificial unvegetated – unsealed surface (u1c)</u>

- 4.6 A relatively narrow width of disturbed, predominantly bare ground is present along the southern side of the building, with occasional patches of short grass (modified grassland g4) with >75% grass cover including rye grass *Lolium sp.*, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanata*.
- 4.7 To the rear and sides of the building are areas of disturbed bare ground with occasional shoots of willowherb *Epilobium sp.*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and nettle *Urtica dioica* growing immediately to the rear of the building. Occasional farm debris such as wooden fence posts and small sections of piping are also present here, laying across the bare earth.

Hard standing / sealed surface (u1b)

4.8 A small path width of concrete hard standing runs along the southern edge of the building, sitting slightly lower than the adjacent bare earth / grass.



Buildings (u1b5)

- 4.9 One building is present on site. The single storey former piggery building is constructed of concrete blocks to around 1.2m with a wooden frame above here. The frame is modern, and closely fitting, and is covered with a single layer of chipboard sheets to the rear (north) and weatherboarding on the eastern and western gable ends. The front (southern) walls comprise concrete blocks with vertical wooden boarding panels above, some of which form opening hatches. Wooden double stable doors provide access into each of the eight individual sections of the building, which are divided internally by concrete block walls and vertical wooden boarding to eave height.
- 4.10 The roof is supported by closely fitting wooden beams, with no ridge beam and occasional missing ridge coverings. The roof is covered with unlined corrugated asbestos sheeting, and extends beyond the southern wall to create a small covered concrete walkway along the southern façade of the building. The southern façade of the roof supports solar panels on metal supports, with a >150mm gap between the panels and corrugated roof sheets.
- 4.11 Wooden barge boards are present on the western gable ends, but with no overlap between the boards and the weatherboarding beneath a large gap (>100mm) is present due to the protruding roof beams. The weatherboarding is warped in places, but with little to no resultant overlap / cavity beneath. Parts of the eastern gable weatherboarding are missing, but those that remain sit closely against the supporting wooden frame. A wooden barge board running the length of the southern wall has no gaps or cavities beneath, and supports plastic guttering. A wide crack is present in the eastern gable end of the block wall, but does not lead to a cavity, and provides exposed and draughty internal conditions. Two similar cracks are present in the base of the northern wall.
- 4.12 A single birds nest most likely robin *Erithacus rubecula* was recorded on internal gable end beams at the western end of the building.
- 4.13 No evidence of the presence of bats or barn owls was recorded anywhere in the building.

 Willow scrub (h3j) and tall forbs (g3,16, 10)
- 4.14 At the eastern end of the site is a small area of willow Salix sp. dominated scrub, with some mature hawthorn Crataegus monogyna, blackthorn Prunus spinosa and bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. The ground layer consists of tall ruderals with some patches of rushes, and it is understood that this area of vegetation is to be retained and undisturbed as part of the proposals.





Photo 1: South western facades of building



Photo 2: North western facades of building



Photo 3: North eastern facades of building



Photo 4: South western facades of building



Photo 5: Gable end weatherboarding sitting close against structural beams



Photo 6: Internal roof structure, with no central ridge beam





Photo 7: Eastern weatherboarded gable end, with no gaps beneath weatherboarding or around window frame



Photo 8: Northern chipboard wall fitting closely to modern wooden frame



Photo 9: Bare ground, emerging willowherb and stored pipes to rear (north) of building



Photo 10: Bare ground and emerging willowherb, nettle and creeping thistle around fencing debris to rear (north) of building



Photo 11: Area of mature scrub at eastern end of site - located outside of construction zone



Photo 12: Bare earth to rear (north) of building



Water bodies

- 4.15 No water bodies are present on site. Aerial photographs and Ordnance Survey maps at 1:10,000 scale highlighted the presence of nine water bodies within 250m of the site boundaries. The closest (WB1) was accessible and was subject to an HSI assessment, which found the pond to be of 'excellent' suitability for great crested newts with a score of 0.83.
- 4.16 WB1 is located 35m to the south west of the site, with an additional four water bodies in the immediate vicinity of WB1 (66m 155m from the site to the south west), all of which form part of a moat network surrounding the adjacent Tannington Lodge. WB6 is a small section of wet ditch c.140m to the west of the site, and WB7 a small pond 80m to the west of the site.
- 4.17 Also at 140m to the north east of the construction zone is a single pond (WB8), with another single pond (WB9) located c.185m to the south east.

Animals

<u>Bats</u>

4.18 The MAGIC data search identified five bat EPSM licences within 5km of the site, as detailed in the table below.

Table 1: Bat EPSM licences within 5km of site – distance, direction, year of issue, species & roost type

| Licence location | Year | Species | Roost type |
|------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| 2.3km south east | 2017 & 2018 | Soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared | Non-breeding |
| 4.1km south | 2018 | Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long- eared, natterer's | Non-breeding |
| 5km south west | 2019 | Common pipistrelle, brown long-eared | Non-breeding |
| 4.1km west | 2016 | Soprano pipistrelle | Non-breeding |
| 4.2km north east | 2020 | Common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long- eared, natterer's, barbastelle | Non-breeding |

4.19 The author is also aware of the presence of a common pipistrelle maternity roost and non-breeding natterer's, soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat roosts c.1.2km to the south east of the site.



Bats - roosting

4.20 The building was assessed as being of 'negligible' suitability for roosting bats, with no potential roosting crevices noted, and no evidence of the presence of bats recorded. The cracks in the lower block walls are shallow and draughty, and provide very poor conditions for roosting bats. It is also apparent from Google Earth images and remains of brambles running through the eaves of the building that these cracks have been covered by dense brambles until very recently, further reducing the likelihood of bats accessing these features.

Bats – commuting / foraging

4.21 The site provides a small area of potential bat foraging or commuting habitat, limited to the stand of mature scrub on the eastern side of the site. This vegetation is to be retained and undisturbed as part of the proposals. The wider offsite surroundings provide significant areas of moderate to high quality potential bat foraging habitat – long grass, groups of trees, wide hedges and scrub, and are likely to be used by a wide range of bat species for both foraging and commuting.

<u>Reptiles</u>

4.22 The proposed construction zone does not support any potential reptile habitat. The eastern scrub and ruderal vegetation could be used by small numbers of transient reptiles such as grass snake *Natrix helvetica*, and are to be retained as part of the proposals.

Amphibians

- 4.23 As part of the MAGIC search, one group of class licence returns were identified c.2.3km to the south east of the site. The author is also aware of the presence of great crested newt (GCN) 1.2km to the south east of the site. Whilst a records search was not carried out, GCN are known to be widespread across mid-Suffolk, and with the presence of nine water bodies within 250m of the site, with at least one deemed to be of 'excellent' suitability for GCN, it is assumed that GCN are present in at least one of these nearby water bodies.
- 4.24 All of the nearby ponds are surrounded to varying degrees by moderate to high quality terrestrial habitats such as long grass, mature scrub, groups of trees and wide hedgerows. This contrasts with the habitats within the construction zone, which are dominated by bare ground with patchy short vegetation, and a building with hard standing. There is very little potential GCN habitat within the construction zone, with features limited to a recently created small accumulation of dead brambles; small pipe sections; a wooden board recently lain on the floor; and some old fence posts. The likelihood of GCN using the site for the purposes of foraging or shelter is therefore very low. There is some potential for GCN to use the site for commuting, however there are good alternative connective habitats between the ponds which are more likely to be used by GCN.



- 4.25 Note that the mature scrub at the eastern end of the site does provide good quality terrestrial habitat for foraging and sheltering GCN, but is not included within this assessment since it will be retained and undisturbed as part of the proposals.
- 4.26 Whilst the proposals are located in very close proximity to at least one pond with excellent potential to support GCN, Natural England's rapid risk assessment tool (Natural England, 2015) indicates that the loss / damage of up to 100m² of GCN habitat would be unlikely to result in an offence under the relevant legislation i.e. the notional probability of an offence is Green i.e. 'unlikely'. The proposals will result in the loss of less than 10m² of potential GCN habitat, and are therefore very unlikely to result in an offence by way of harm, disturbance or habitat destruction. Any such risks can be further reduced by following a Precautionary Method Statement for the duration of works.
- 4.27 It is also considered that in the event of GCN presence in any of the nine offsite water bodies, due to the very limited area of habitat to be lost, the proposals are very unlikely to have any adverse impacts upon the Favourable Conservation Status of any local GCN population.

Birds

4.28 The building has been used by nesting birds in the past, and has ongoing potential to support nesting birds of common and widespread species. No evidence of the presence of barn owl was recorded on site, with poor potential nesting opportunities inside the building.

Badger

4.29 No evidence of badger was recorded on or within 30m of the site. No setts, footprints, hairs, latrines, snuffle holes or scratching indicative of the presence of badgers was recorded.

Water Vole and Otter

4.30 There are no features on or immediately adjacent the site which provide suitable habitat for otter or water vole.

Dormice

4.31 The proposed construction zone does not support any potential dormouse habitat. The small area of scrub to the east of the building provides suitable habitat, but is not connected to any larger areas of woodland or scrub capable of supporting a sustainable population of dormice. Dormice are therefore unlikely to be present on site or adversely affected by the proposals.



<u>Invertebrates</u>

4.32 The site is considered likely to support common and widespread invertebrate species typical of the habitats present.

Other Legally Protected Species

4.33 Due to a lack of suitable habitats the site is not considered likely to support any other legally protected species.

<u>Species of Principal Importance</u>

4.34 The construction zone provides very little habitat for Species of Principal Importance.



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Designated Sites

- 5.1 The proposals are very unlikely to have an adverse impact upon any statutory designated sites of national or international importance. No further works are required in this regard.
- 5.2 No adverse impacts on County Wildlife Sites are predicted.

Habitats

5.3 There are no Priority habitats present on site or within the potential Zone of Influence.

Bats

- 5.4 All species of bat are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In summary, this makes it an offence to harm or disturb a bat; damage or destroy a roost; and obstruct access to a roost (whether or not bats are present at the time).
- 5.5 Potential effects on roosting bats: negligible.
- 5.6 Mitigation measures for roosting bats: none required. In the unlikely event that a bat is discovered at any point during the works, all works must cease and an ecologist contacted for further advice.
- 5.7 Potential effects on commuting / foraging bats: in the absence of mitigation negligible impacts are predicted with respect to foraging and commuting bats due to the small size of the site and the overall lack of such habitat within the construction zone. A small area of potential foraging habitat is present immediately adjacent the building to the east, however no external lighting is proposed at this end of the building, and only a small single window will be created here.
- 5.8 Mitigation measures for commuting / foraging bats: as a precaution and general best practice, where external lighting features are proposed on the southern, eastern or western walls, bat friendly lighting features will be installed to avoid lighting the wider site or any bat enhancement features at night. Lighting will be minimal limited to small motion sensitive porch lights only, located as close to the ground as possible (<2m) and using warm white (<3000K) LED bulbs. The lights will be downward facing or use hoods, cowls, louvres and shields to direct light to the ground. NOTE: no such recommendations are necessary for the northern elevation, where 1) the roof covering will prevent upward and the majority of any outward light spill, and where 2) there are no on site or adjacent habitat features with potential to be used by roosting, foraging or commuting bats.



5.9 Residual effects: a minor enhancement at the site level for roosting bats could be achieved via the installation of two artificial roosting features built in or fixed to the external walls of the replacement building, as detailed in Section 6.0.

Amphibians

- 5.10 Great crested newts (GCNs) and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), and by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 5.11 Potential effects: there is very little potential GCN habitat within the construction zone limited to a recently created small accumulation of dead brambles; small pipe sections; a wooden board recently lain on the floor; and some old fence posts. This is significantly less than the 100m² of lost / damaged habitat for which Natural England's rapid risk assessment tool (Natural England, 2015) indicates would be unlikely to result in an offence i.e. the notional probability of an offence is Green i.e. 'unlikely'.
- 5.12 The potential for GCN to be harmed or disturbed by the works is very low, and avoidance measures can further reduce the likelihood of GCN presence within the proposed construction zone, resulting in negligible risk of GCN being adversely affected by the proposals. Even in the absence of the PMS provided in Appendix 3, no adverse impact upon the Favourable Conservation Status of any local GCN population is predicted.
- 5.13 Mitigation measures: it is recommended that the Precautionary Method Statement (PMS) in Appendix 3 is followed during all stages of works to the building. This will adequately reduce the risk of GCN presence or harm such that further survey or an EPSM licence is not required. Such works are considered to be disproportionate when the potential for an offence under the relevant legislation is likely to be negligible and there is no predicted adverse impact on the Favourable Conservation Status of GCNs.
- 5.14 Residual effects: negligible.

Reptiles

- 5.15 All Suffolk reptile species are protected against harm under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 5.16 Potential effects: negligible.
- 5.17 Mitigation measures: none.
- 5.18 Residual effects: negligible.



Birds

5.19 Breeding birds and their nests are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

(as amended).

5.20 Potential effects: the building provides potential nesting habitat for a small number of bird

species, and the disturbance and destruction of an active nest could have a negative

effect on some bird species at the site level.

5.21 Mitigation measures: ideally building works would commence during October to February

inclusive to avoid the bird nesting season. Where this is not possible, immediately prior to

commencement of works a check for nesting birds should be undertaken by a suitably

experienced ecologist. Any active nests will need to be left in situ until the young have left

the nest.

5.22 Residual effects: following implementation of the mitigation and enhancement measures

detailed in section 6.0 - the provision of three nest boxes for house sparrow on the

replacement building, and one nest box for barn owls within the wider blue line boundary -

no significant adverse effect is predicted on bird species at any level in the medium to long

term, and a minor enhancement at the site level is predicted for barn owl and house

sparrow.

Badger

5.23 Badgers and their setts are afforded protection under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992

(as amended). This legislation includes protection against damage to badger setts and

against interference and disturbance of badgers whilst they are occupying a sett.

5.24 Potential effects: negligible.

5.25 Mitigation measures: none.

5.26 Residual effects: negligible.

Otters & Water Voles

5.27 Otters and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species

Regulations 2017 (as amended) and by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as

amended). Water voles and their habitats are fully protected by the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

5.28 Potential effects: negligible.

5.29 Mitigation measures: none.

5.30 Residual effects: negligible.

Dormice

- 5.31 Dormice and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 5.32 Potential effects: negligible.
- 5.33 Mitigation measures: none.
- 5.34 Residual effects: negligible.

Invertebrates

- 5.35 Potential effects: negligible.
- 5.36 Mitigation measures: none.
- 5.37 Residual effects: negligible.

Other Legally Protected or Notable Species

- 5.38 The proposed development is not anticipated to impact on any other legally protected or notable species, therefore no mitigation measures are recommended.
- 5.39 Enhancement measures will provide artificial roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling bats (many of which are SPIE), new nesting and roosting opportunities for barn owl, and new nesting opportunities for house sparrows, also a SPIE.



6.0 ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

6.1 **2 no. bat boxes** taken from any of the designs detailed below will be built in or fixed externally to 1) the western elevation and 2) the southern elevation of the new building. The boxes will be located immediately beneath the eaves, at a minimum height of 3m, with an unobstructed clear drop beneath the box entrance. The boxes will be located well away from sources of artificial lighting, including windows.

Alternatives to the designs detailed below will be agreed with an ecologist.



<u>Vivara Pro woodstone build in bat tube</u> – to be built in to a wall and covered externally with render or weather boarding



<u>Lela bat box</u> – for external installation on buildings



Bat Box

To fit in to the outside skin of 75mm / 3" brickwork course; or can be supplied without brick facings for incorporation into a weatherboarded wall

Available from birdbrickhouses.co.uk



<u>Beaumaris woodstone bat box midi</u> – for external installation on buildings



<u>Chillon woodstone bat box</u> – for external installation on buildings



6.2 3 no. bird boxes suitable for house sparrows will be fixed to / built in to the eastern elevation of the new building, immediately to the left or right of the central apex window, at a height of at least 3m. The boxes will each have a 32mm diameter access hole (suitable for use by house sparrows). If not already in double / triple format, the boxes will be positioned as close as possible (at least within 300mm) to one another.

Boxes with 32mm wide entrance holes are widely available online or from garden centres. More discrete built in options are also available, and detailed below. Woodstone / concrete boxes are recommended since they are better insulated and longer lasting.



<u>'Travis' style wooden nest box</u> with 32mm diameter hole and predator-proof metal plate.

Available from CJ Wildlife



Habibat House Sparrow Terrace Box

Made of concrete, to be integrated into buildings during construction. Can be supplied with various brick facings, or without brick facings for incorporation into a rendered or weatherboarded wall.

440 x 215 x 150mm

Available from habibat.co.uk



Woodstone Estella House Sparrow Box

Made of long lasting woodstone; can be builtin or fixed externally

Available from CJ Wildlife

Dimensions 290 x 160 x 210mm, weight 6kg

6.3 <u>I no. barn owl box</u> will be installed in an isolated, large dead / dying tree located to the north of the new building, along the wider blue line site boundary. The box will be based on designs provided by the Barn Owl Trust, and will be specifically designed for installation within a tree (as provided in Appendix 4). The box will be positioned at least 3m above ground level, with the box entrance facing open ground (ideally long grass), and unobscured by branches so that it is visible and easily accessible to passing owls. Wherever possible the box entrance will avoid facing into the prevailing south westerly winds.



7.0 REFERENCES

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine Version 1.1. Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2017a) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit. Revised print, JNCC, Peterborough.

Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023) Guidance Note 08/23: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Institution of Lighting Professionals and Bat Conservation Trust.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J (2004) Bat Mitigation Guidelines, English Nature, Peterborough.

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Natural England (2015) Template for Method Statement to support application for licence under Regulation 53(2)e of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) in respect of great crested newts Triturus cristatus. Form WML-A14-2 (Version December 2015)

Oldham, R.S., Keeble ,J., Swan, M.J.S. & Jeffcote, M., (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the great crested newt (Triturus cristatus). Herpetological Journal, 10, pp. 143-155.

UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at http://www.ukhab.org)



8.0 LEGISLATION

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

- 8.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) will soon become the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). These regulations will continue to provide safeguards for European Protected Sites and Species as listed in the Habitats Directive. As a result, the same provisions remain in place for European protected species, licensing requirements and protected areas after Brexit.
- 8.2 Species protected by the former European legislation includes great crested newt, all UK bat species, dormice and otter. A number of other plant and animal species are also included such as sand lizard, smooth snake and natterjack toad, however these additional species are rare, with restricted geographical ranges and specific habitat types.
- 8.3 Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) it is an offence to:
 - Damage, destroy or obstruct access to an EPS breeding or resting place;
 - Deliberately capture, injure or kill an EPS (including their eggs);
 - Deliberately disturb an EPS, in particular any actions which may impair an animals ability to survive, breed or nurture their young; or their ability to hibernate or migrate; or which may significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- 8.4 The legislation applies to all stages of amphibian life cycles (eggs, larvae and adult), and to active bat roosts even when they are not occupied at that particular time of year.
- 8.5 Natural England can, under certain circumstances, grant a licence to permit actions which would otherwise be unlawful, subject to the species concerned being maintained at a Favourable Conservation Status and there being a true need for the proposed works to take place.
- 8.6 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are also afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Ramsar sites, which are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971), are afforded the same level of protection as SPAs and SACs via national planning policy.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

8.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) provides varied levels of protection for a range of species including those already listed above.



- 8.8 Water vole are one of the species not listed under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), but are afforded the highest level of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- 8.9 It is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a water vole, to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a structure or place used for shelter and/or protection, to disturb a water vole whilst occupying a structure and/or place used for shelter and protection, or to obstruct access to any structure and/or place used for shelter or protection.
- 8.10 Other species, such as common lizard, slow worm, adder and grass snake, are afforded less protection. For these species it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill or injure animals.
- 8.11 All active bird nests, eggs and young are protected against intentional destruction. Schedule 1 listed birds e.g. barn owls, kingfishers, are further protected from intentional and reckless disturbance whilst breeding.
- 8.12 Schedule 9 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act lists plant species for which it is an offence for a person to plant, or otherwise cause to grow in the wild. This includes Japanese Knotweed which, under the Environment Protection Act 1990 (as amended) is classed as 'controlled waste'. If any parts of the plant including stems, leaves and rhizomes are taken off-site they must be disposed of safely at a landfill site licensed to deal with such contaminated waste.
- 8.13 Sites of Species Scientific Interest (SSSI) are afforded protection by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)

8.14 The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure, take, possess or cruelly ill-treat a badger, or to attempt to do so, and to intentionally or recklessly interfere with a sett.

The Protection of Mammals Act 1996 (as amended)

8.15 The Act protects all wild mammals against actions which have the intention of causing unnecessary suffering, including crushing and asphyxiation.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended)

8.16 Under sections 40 and 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 local authorities have an obligation to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in carrying out their duties. The majority of UK legally protected species are listed under Section 41 the NERC Act.



8.17 Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) also requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of 'principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity' in England (Species of Principal Importance in England – SPIE). The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the act to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions.

The Environment Act 2021 & National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

8.18 The Environment Act 2021 makes provision for biodiversity gain to be a condition of planning permission in England, with a minimum 10% BNG mandatory from January 2024. The 25 Year Environment Plan (DEFRA, 2021) sets out goals for improving the environment and leaving it in a better state for the next generation, and is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023), which makes general provisions for the delivery of BNG.

8.19 The NPPF states that plans should:

- a) "Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity (as already detailed in Government Circular 06/200520); wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."
- 8.20 Locally specific polices set out what strategies need to be taken into account when delivering BNG, and may include Green Infrastructure Strategies and Local Nature Recovery Strategies in order that BNG may contribute to wider nature recovery plans.

Statutory Designated Sites

8.21 Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended), statutory conservation agencies were able to establish National Nature Reserves (NNRs), with provisions for these areas strengthened by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They are managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species represented within them.



8.22 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) can be declared by local authorities after consultation with the relevant statutory nature conservation agency under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended). LNRs are not subject to legal protection, but are afforded protection against damaging operations via byelaws, and against development via local planning policies.

Non-Statutory Designated Sites

8.23 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and County Wildlife Sites (CWS) are often designated by the local Wildlife Trust. They are not usually afforded ay legal protection, but are recognised in the planning system and given some protection through planning policy.



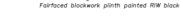
Appendix 1: Proposed Site Layout

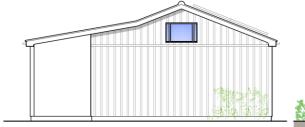


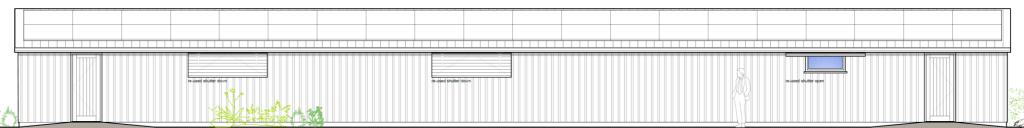
CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2015 Designers Hazard Information for Constitution These notics rater specifically to the information shown on this drawing. Refer to Health & Safety Plan for further information.

NOTES ON PROPOSED MATERIALS:

Black Metal Corrugated roof sheet 21.4 deg & 10.0 deg galvanised finish Timber bargeboard stained finish Photovoltaic panels Zinc Gutters & Downpipes natural finish Timber window & doors colour: stained black Timber barding board on board colour: stained black Fairfaced blockwork plinth painted RIW black



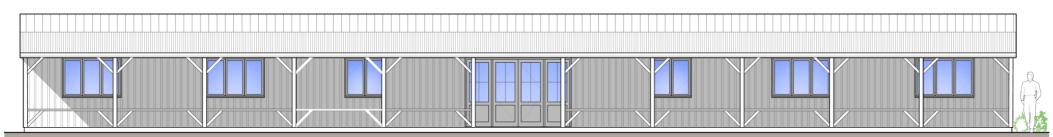


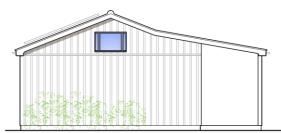


proposed west elevation 1:50

proposed south elevation 1:50 obscured glazing

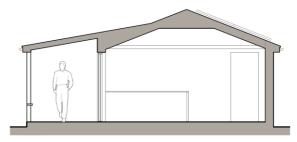




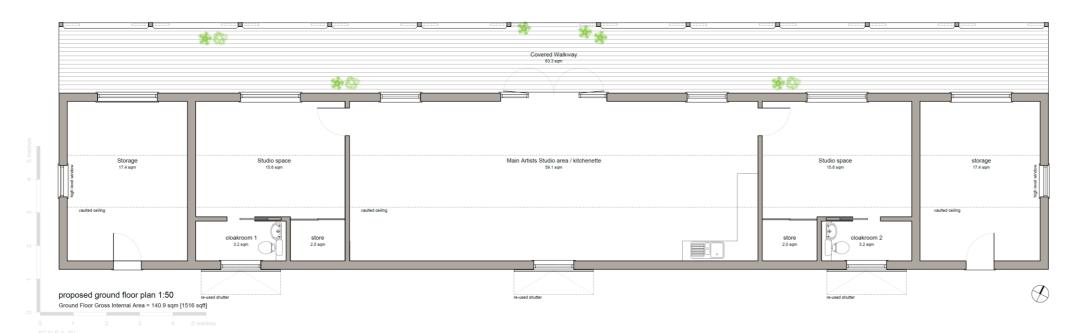


proposed north elevation 1:50

proposed east elevation 1:50



proposed typical section 1:50



| Drawing | Status: | Planning | Drawn By: | sg | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------|
| Drawing | Number: | PW1327_PL02revD | | | |
| Drawing | Title: | Proposed Floor Plo | ın, Elevations & 1 | Typical Section | on |
| Client: | | Bateman Wilson | | | |
| Project: | | Tannington Lodge | Barns, Ip13 7NN | | |
| Date Revision | | Description Drawn | | | Chec |
| 01.12.23 | A | Amended to date | | smg | PW |
| 4.12.23 B Amended to date | | | smg | PW | |
| 19.12.23 | С | Floor area added, high level wi | indow added to plan | smg | PW |
| 07.02.24 | D | Amended to date | | rjs | PW |

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DISCLAMEN: This drawing was prepared for the Client, Project & Site stated below and for the purposes set out in the Project Particulars. Peter Wells Architects accepts no responsibility whotsower should the drawing be used by any the project of the project of



Appendix 2: HSI Assessment Results



HSI Assessment results

Table 2: WB1

| Habitat Suitability Index | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| | , | | | SI value |
| SI1. | Map location | A/B/C | А | 1.00 |
| SI2. | Surface area | rectangle/ellipse/irregular | irregular | |
| | | length (m) | | |
| | | width (m) | | |
| | | OR estimate (m²) if irregular | 684 | |
| | | area (m²) | = 684 | 1.00 |
| SI3. | Dessication rate | never/rarely/sometimes/frequently | rarely | 1.00 |
| SI4. | Water quality | good/moderate/poor/bad | good | 1.00 |
| SI5. | Shade | % of margin shaded 1m from bank | 40 | 1.00 |
| SI6. | Waterfowl | absent/major/minor | minor | 0.67 |
| SI7. | Fish population | absent/possible/minor/major | possible | 0.67 |
| SI8. | Pond density | number of ponds within 1km | 5.7 | 1.00 |
| SI9. | Terrestrial habitat | good/moderate/poor/isolated | good | 1.00 |
| SI10. | Macrophyte cover | % | 10 | 0.41 |
| | | | | |
| | | | HSI = | 0.84 |
| Use provisional HSI value if above 0.75 | | provisional HSI = | 0.83 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | Date undertaken | 01.02.24 |



Appendix 3:

Great Crested Newt Non-Licensed Precautionary Method Statement



Non-Licensed Precautionary Method Statement

1.0 Timing of Works

Works to remove the very small areas of potential great crested newt (GCN) habitat (bramble stems, pipes, fence posts and lain wooden sheets) will be carried out between March and October inclusive to avoid the amphibian hibernation period. No such works will take place during temperatures of below 5°C, and no works will take place at night.

2.0 Toolbox Talk

Every contractor and site worker will be briefed by an experienced ecologist in possession of a Natural England GCN Survey Licence prior to commencement of works. They will be made aware of the legal protection of GCN, the reasons for this Method Statement, how to identify a GCN, and what to do if a GCN is found during works.

All site contractors will be provided with a copy of this Method Statement, which includes an ID sheet for reference purposes.

3.0 Exclusion Fencing

Prior to commencement of works on site, and at the time of year when most newts are in ponds (generally mid-March to mid-June) the eastern boundary of the construction site will be bordered by amphibian exclusion fencing to separate the construction zone from offsite GCN habitats and discourage GCN from entering the site.

Since the route of the fencing supports very little level vegetation (bare earth with patchy short vegetation), its installation need not be supervised by an ecologist. An ecologist will however supervise the removal of the fencing due to the potential for GCN to shelter around the base.

(Note that fencing installation will not obstruct GCN since individuals have to traverse around the building when moving between ponds / habitat features in any case)



Fig 2: GCN exclusion fencing location, shown as blue line

Exclusion fencing must be installed according to the specification detailed in Figure 3, below, with the lip facing outwards to discourage GCN from climbing over the fence.



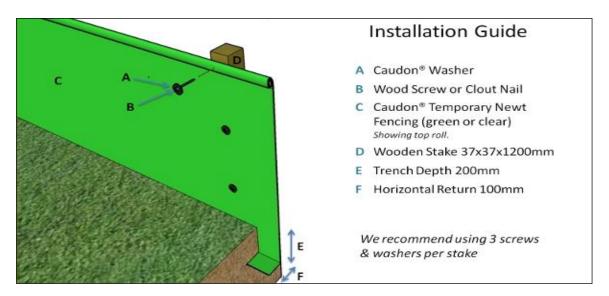


Fig 3: Installation Guide Specification taken from https://www.wildlifefencing.co.uk

4.0 Vegetation and Top Soil Removal

Vegetation on site will be maintained at a very low (<10mm) height between now and the commencement of works, to avoid the need for a fingertip search of vegetation prior to soil stripping. This may be achieved via mechanical disturbance, or use of hand tools (strimmers, rakes, etc). Any arisings are to be removed from the working area or stored in skips.

Any general debris – notably the bramble remains, pipes, posts and boards – will be lifted individually by hand and with care, and the area beneath checked for GCN. The ecologist will ensure that the working zones are clear of all potential newt habitat prior to commencement of building works.

5.0 Construction Methodology

During works the following measures will be adhered to at all times:

- No building materials (rubble, wood, roof sheets etc) or excavated material (rubble, unconsolidated spoil) will be stored on site unless entirely inaccessible to GCN, to avoid use of the piles by sheltering GCN. All such materials will be removed from site, stored in skips or on raised pallets;
- Wherever possible trenches or similar will not be left open overnight. Any trenches which are left open overnight will contain an angled plank of wood to ensure any GCN which may use the site do not fall in and become trapped. The trenches will always be checked the following morning for GCN;
- Areas of wet cement will be covered at night to prevent access by GCN.

6.0 Delays to Works

Wherever possible, works will proceed quickly and without delay, to minimise the duration of ground disturbance. If any delay is predicted following commencement of works, the site will always be left in a condition that is unsuitable for GCN i.e. following the measures detailed in section 5.0.



7.0 Discovery of GCN during works

If a GCN is found on site at any point during construction, all works will cease. An ecologist will be contacted for further advice, if not already present on site. Natural England will be informed, and works will not re-commence until a development (EPSM) licence or Low Impact licence has been secured or other provisions have been agreed with Natural England.

8.0 Great Crested Newt ID

<u>Great crested newts</u>: these newts are **noticeably black to very dark brown** in colour, with a warty texture to their skin. Some of the warts are white, accentuating the warty and slightly speckled appearance. In spring male newts have a white stripe along the centre of their tail, and females have an orange stripe at the end of their tail. The bright orange-yellow belly colouring extends fully to join with the dark upper skin tone.

By contrast, <u>common or palmate newts</u> are a lighter brown-green colour and are significantly smaller (up to 9cm in length, whilst great crested newts may be up to 15cm in length). **Both common and great crested newts have an orange-yellow belly with black spots**; however the orange colouring fades towards the edges of the belly of common newts. Both males have crests in the spring.



Female Great Crested Newt



Female Great Crested Newt & Smooth Newt



Female Common Newt



Male Great Crested Newt

Appendix 4: Barn Owl Tree Box Specification



Barn Owl Nestbox for a Tree Cutting Plan



