



Document Control				
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Report Title		Appendix 11.3: Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) - Reptiles and Amphibians		
Issue	Date	Notes	Prepared	Reviewed
V1	01/08/2017	Draft	C Baldock <i>MCIEM</i>	U Maginn <i>MCIEM</i>
V2	18/09/2017	Final	U Maginn <i>MCIEM</i>	H Fearn <i>MCIEM</i>

## **Legislation**

Great crested newts (GCN) are European Protected Species (EPS) and they and their habitats are fully protected under national (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) and European law (The Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)). The combined legislation makes it illegal to:

- intentionally or deliberately capture, kill or injure a great crested newt;
- intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used for shelter and protection including resting and breeding places, whether occupied or not;
- deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt when in a place of shelter;
- possess a great crested newt, or any part of it, unless acquired lawfully;
- sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale great crested newts or parts of them.

Anyone carrying out activities which may affect EPS must consider their presence, breeding sites and resting places. Best practice guidance is available from Natural England which advises on the possible impact of operations (including strategies for avoiding committing offences). If an offence cannot be avoided, then a derogation licence should be sought from Natural England.

Common reptile species namely the common lizard, slow-worm, grass snake and adder are protected against killing, injuring and sale.

## **Method Statement Objectives**

The objectives of this method statement are therefore to:-

- Avoid committing an offence under the above legislation; and,
- Ensure that the favourable conservation status of the species concerned is maintained.

Any development related activities on the Site, such as vegetation clearance or excavations in areas of suitable amphibian and reptile habitat may potentially affect these species. As a result, safeguards must be implemented and the Method Statement below details measures to ensure these objectives are achieved. If these measures are followed then both objectives will be achieved without the need for a derogation license from Natural England (in respect to great crested newts).

## **Method Statement**

This Method Statement should be followed for all construction works. Minor or short term destructive or disturbance works (e.g. cable laying or ground mountings) will also follow this Method Statement to ensure legal compliance and to ensure the favourable conservation status of the species is not compromised.

The following measures will be adopted throughout the construction period of the proposed development:

- Site operatives will be informed by 'tool box' talk at the start of the construction period on ecological responsibilities and what to look out for during development works.
- An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed and be available, as and when required throughout the construction period.
- Any vegetation works including the removal of taller vegetation (above 15cm) and other vegetation along woodland edges will be undertaken using hand tools (e.g. hand held strimmer), under the

supervision of the ECoW. This will encourage animals to vacate the area temporarily. Cut material should be removed immediately from the working area.

- Site operatives will keep a watching brief throughout the construction phase; especially during initial ground clearance operations.
- The proposed timing of the works should coincide with the majority of amphibians still being within ponds (March to July/August) or when amphibians and reptiles are in hibernation (November to February inclusive). This will reduce the likely presence of individual animals within this unfavourable terrestrial habitat.
- Between March and October inclusive (when amphibians and reptiles are active) the following additional measures will be implemented:
  - Should any trenches and excavations be required, these should be covered, if not an escape route for animals that enter the trench must be provided, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than of 45 degrees in angle. Ideally, any holes should be securely covered.
  - All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling.
  - Any excavated material should be placed on boards or sheeting to reduced damage to the grass sward (if present). If left overnight this material should be searched prior to being used as infill.
- If a GCN is found, work must stop immediately and contact should be made with a licensed, qualified ecologist, who will liaise with Natural England.