

INFORMATION SHEET ON DEVELOPMENT AND GREAT CRESTED NEWTS



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PRE-PLANNING PERMISSION

Development proposal

Initial survey for great crested newts (by ecological consultant). Required by Local Planning Authority and Natural England, where water bodies are within 500m of development. Four surveys must be made to determine presence/absence with 3 surveys conducted between mid-April and mid-May.

Great crested newts not present.

Great crested newts present.

No further survey or mitigation for great crested newts required. Submit initial survey report with planning application.

A further two survey nights are required to assess great crested newt population size. Produce report that sets out survey results, impacts and a mitigation scheme¹. Submit with planning application.

Revise and resubmit, appeal or abandon.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning permission granted subject to other planning considerations. Proceed with development.

Planning permission granted subject to other planning considerations.

Planning permission refused.

NATURAL ENGLAND LICENCE

Submit licence application to Natural England. Requires a report that sets out survey results, impacts and a mitigation scheme. Takes up to 40 days to determine.

Revise and resubmit or abandon.

Licence granted

Licence refused

MITIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROCEEDS

Implementation of the agreed mitigation scheme. Example mitigation for great crested newts could include:

- MINOR IMPACT-on site mitigation:
 - small scale relocation and exclusion;
 - fence erecting and traps set up to exclude newts from works(between March and October), survey for 30days min.;
 - habitat creation i.e. creation of refuges and hibernacula (piles of rubble/logs buried beneath surface of ground).
- MAJOR IMPACT-translocation of newts away from site:
 - fence erecting and traps set up (between March and April)survey for 60days min;
 - translocation of newts to area providing equivalent/better habitat (receptor site);
 - habitat creation and restoration prior to translocation i.e. areas of coarse grassland, hedgerows and ponds;
 - creation of refuges and hibernaculas (piles of rubble/logs buried beneath surface of ground).

Monitoring of great crested newts required after development completed.

¹ Please note that mitigation must be designed on a case-by-case basis. Mitigation must be proportionate to the importance of the site affected and the type and level of impact. Please contact for advice.