

GREAT CRESTED NEWT RISK ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION	Brick House, Killy Lane, off Griffe lane, Unsworth, Whitefield, Bury, Greater Manchester, BL9 8GA
APPROX CENTRAL GRID REFERENCE	The site is centred upon grid reference: SD 82872 07456. What3Words: timing.waving.alert
DATE OF RISK ASSESSMENT	07 th August 2025
ASSESSOR	Gary Tudor CBiol, MRSB, MCIEEM. Gary is Principal Ecologist and Company Director at AES-LTD and a licensed GCN surveyor (2015-19235-CLS-CLS). Gary has over 30 years experience with GCN and also holds a LICL licence.
WEATHER	19°C, sunshine with clouds, 10% cloud cover, wind 3mph from the south west (B1:SW).
SCOPE OF THE SURVEY	The site is the location of buildings and hard standing previously connected to a working farm. Areas within the wider former farmyard including sheds and outbuildings have already been developed and re-developed into residential properties. The scope of the survey was to inspect and report upon a series of mitigation measures put in place in 2010 and maintained regularly since then to prevent animals, namely amphibians from gaining access to the site. A range of amphibian species including great crested newt are recorded at varying population densities in a range of suitable habitats in the adjacent golf course. These habitats in the golf course have been surveyed regularly for over 25 years. There were no ponds and or other waterbodies located with the site.
METHODOLOGY	With the absence of ponds and or other waterbodies in the site the risk assessment took the form of a fence inspection and random hand searches being undertaken of piled materials found located in the site.
SITE PLAN = development area, amphibian / small mammal fencing is visible on the periphery of the of the plot	
LEGISLATION	Great Crested Newts are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Directive (2017) a piece of EU legislation that has been

	retained in UK law. GCN are protected under section 43 of these regulations making it an offence to: • deliberately capture, injure or kill an animal • deliberately disturb an animal • or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by an animal Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing. Deliberate disturbance of animals includes any disturbance which is likely to impair their ability: • To survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or • In the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or • To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong. Where development works are at risk of causing one or more of the offences listed above, a mitigation licence from Natural England can be obtained to facilitate the works that would otherwise be illegal. GCN are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb an animal in such a place. Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided. GCN are listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as Species of Principal Importance for Conservation in England. Section 40 of the same Act requires that local and regional authorities have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
DESKTOP	A desktop assessment was not required in this case due to the extent of historical survey information already available. This shows clearly the status of GCN and other amphibian species and other species present within the immediate and wider area.

RESULTS	No GCN or any other amphibian species were found during this survey / risk assessment. All of the mitigation fencing located on the periphery of the site was well maintained and in good order as were the rubber gate barriers. The random hand searches did not reveal the presence of any amphibian species and / or small mammals.
SITE ASSESSMENT	The site offers only suboptimal habitat for amphibian species and small mammals and birds with approximately 80% of the development area comprising of concrete and hard standing. The remainder of the area is used for the storage of drainage / building materials and machinery. There were no ponds and / or standing waterbodies present in the proposed development site therefore no pond surveys could have been undertaken.
eDNA SURVEY	No eDNA survey was possible due to the timing of the survey and the absence of ponds / waterbodies in the site.
MITIGATION LICENCE	There is no requirement for a GCN licence
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that vegetation located along the fencing routes continues to be managed until the build out is complete. The exclusion fencing should also continue to be maintained until completion of the works when it should be removed.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1: Amphibian / small mammal exclusion fencing – showing vegetation management



Photograph 2: Fencing at west side of site – showing composition of substrate



Photograph 3: Fencing located over hard standing road surface and crushed brick / concrete

