



Megan Smith
ECE Planning
64-68 Brighton Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex,
BN11 2EN

21st February 2025

Our ref: SWE24/0054/MSL3
Application ref: DC/24/1538

**LAND TO THE SOUTH OF FURNERS LANE HENFIELD WEST SUSSEX BN5 9HS
– PRECAUTIONARY METHOD STATEMENT FOR GREAT CRESTED NEWTS**

Dear Ms Smith,

I understand that Horsham DC have requested a Precautionary Method Statement (PMS) for great crested newts for the above proposed development. I have set out this out below. It should be noted that a reptile translocation will be required for this development. As such, in the unlikely event great crested newts are present within the development parcel, there is a high likelihood that any individuals will be found in any event, at which point appropriate action can be taken.

The following is recommended -

Vegetation removal

- Immediately prior to the commencement of soil stripping/site clearance, a thorough search of the site for great crested newts should be carried out. This should include features in which a great crested newt could be present, such as under piles of material e.g. leaves and logs.
- Under the direct supervision of a suitably licenced ecologist, such features should be carefully dismantled by hand and in a slow and methodological manner, so that if a great crested newt is present, it can be found and rescued.
- Following the search, in all areas that will be directly affected by the development, the vegetation should be cut down to 150mm. Following this, these areas should be left overnight when the weather conditions are suitable for great crested newts to be active, to allow any that might be present to relocate of their own accord. Conditions when great crested newts can reasonably be expected to be active are generally when the minimum overnight temperature is above 5°C and when the ground is either damp or there has been rain within the last 3 days.
- Finally, the vegetation should then be re-cut and maintained at ground level for the duration of the work to minimise the risk of a great crested newt entering the site.

If a newt is found

- If a great crested newt is found during the above process, **all works must stop immediately** and the need or not for the development to continue under a derogation licence should be assessed in consultation with the supervising ecologist.

- If a newt of **any** species is found when an ecologist is not present, **all works must stop immediately and a licensed ecologist must be contacted for advice.** This is so that the species can be confirmed and appropriate action can be taken, if necessary. Only once the advising ecologist is satisfied that there is no or negligible residual risk to great crested newts will the work be allowed to continue.

I trust the above is of assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss anything further if necessary.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'SWatson', written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sam Watson MCIEEM
Director