



Client: The Market Bosworth School

Technical Note: GREAT CRESTED NEWTS & BADGER PROTECTION PROPOSALS –
CONSTRUCTION STAGE

Date: 1/11/2024

To: David Spring, Lead Planner

Dear David,

Addressing the remaining ecology points, we have arrived at the following solutions for the badgers and newts:

- 1) Badgers – As you see from the Arbtech report, the survey was inconclusive on the presence or not of a live badger sett in the woodland adjacent to the working area. However, instead of carrying out further surveys, we are proposing to assume that badgers are present and mitigate for this.
 - The access points in the northern boundary palisade fence area to be blocked off before construction and checked during construction, badger access prevented.
 - The rest of the site will be surrounded by a temporary Heras fence and of course the GCN measures.
 - The nearest any work will come to the assumed sett will be to the existing main drain in the car-park. We are now not installing a new drain to the existing chamber in the woodland as originally proposed.
- 2) GCN – As with the badger measures, we are assuming that there may be newt activity despite this being questioned in the revised badger survey and in our understanding of the status of mown sports fields in GCN migration.

A temporary barrier is proposed to the woodland side of the working area as follows (<https://www.newt-fencing.com/>):

The Natural England/English Nature Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines provide the benchmark specifications for newt fencing. The guidelines describe a barrier fence based on the use of a partially buried polythene membrane, the exposed part being supported by timber stakes.

The membrane should be a UV stabilised material to extend its life (usually to a maximum of two years). This is buried in the ground to a depth of 200mm minimum, with

a 100mm right angle return along the base of the trench to minimise the possibility of newts finding their way under the fence through unconsolidated material. This 'underlap' should be running away from the area that is to be cleared and into the habitat area, so as to prevent newts from coming back into the site.

The trench should be backfilled and, where applicable, the turfs placed upside down to inhibit vegetation growth. All backfill material should be well compacted to ensure that no voids are left into which newts may climb as this may allow for their passage under the fence, or provide them with a place to hide during dry or cold spells, making the trapping process more difficult.

Timber stakes, usually 37x37 or 50x50mm and from 1000 to 1200mm in length are driven into the ground along the inside line of the fence (i.e. the side from which newts are being excluded). Spacing on the stakes is usually 1500mm. The stakes may be tanalised or not depending upon the time due to be spent in the ground.

The polythene membrane should be attached to the stakes using screws, nails or staples through a plastic washer of approx. 20-25mm in diameter. There should be a minimum of three fixings per post. Along the top edge of the membrane, the plastic should be rolled over two or three times to create a 'tube' along the top of the membrane.

The top fixing should be through this roll. This provides a very secure fixing point to the top of the membrane as well as creating an overlap to prevent newts climbing over the fence. Every effort should be made to ensure that the membrane is as taut as possible to reduce the number of creases in it, and so minimise points of weakness that may be exploited by newts or the elements.

This fencing will be in place with the other fencing measures at the pre-construction preparatory stage, with the palisade fence hole blocking and Heras fence installation.



**Fig. 1 – The proposed type of temporary GCN barrier
(Newt Fencing.com/Legacy Habitat Management Ltd))**



Fig. 2 – The located badger sett, possibly disused, and distances by radius to the edge of the working area, new drain connection to existing in the current car-park.

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