

GCN Mitigation & Enhancement Plan – EPSL Version – FINAL

Application: 24/01157/HYB – Kyngs Golf & Country Club

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Date: October 2025

Document Status: FINAL

1. Introduction

This document provides the final mitigation, licensing and enhancement strategy for Great Crested Newts (GCN) associated with hybrid planning application 24/01157/HYB. This version replaces all earlier RAMS-only documents and aligns with the Great Crested Newt Survey undertaken in July 2025 in preparation for an EPSL (European Protected Species Licence).

2. EPSL Requirement

The July 2025 GCN Survey confirmed fourteen ponds (P1–P14) within the 250-metre influence zone. Nine ponds were confirmed as breeding ponds: P1, P2, P4, P5, P7, P8, P9, P11, and P13. Five ponds (P3, P6, P10, P12 and P14) function as supporting ponds. As breeding ponds and suitable terrestrial habitat fall within the red line boundary, an EPSL is required to permit the development lawfully.

3. GCN Population Summary

Eleven ponds were positive for eDNA, with nine confirmed breeding ponds. The site supports foraging, sheltering and commuting habitat across grassland, scrub and woodland edges. Habitat connectivity is maintained between northern and southern pond clusters.

4. EPSL Capture and Exclusion Measures

- Pre-works hand searching under licensed ecologist supervision
- Installation of drift fencing and pitfall traps (where required)
- Controlled vegetation clearance
- Night-time torch surveys
- Daily inspection and recording during trapping periods
- Secure management of any captured individuals in accordance with licence conditions

5. Habitat Protection and Sensitive Working Practices

- Clearly marked exclusion zones and buffer areas
- Timing restrictions to avoid sensitive periods
- Toolbox talks for all contractors
- Avoidance of hazardous materials near ponds
- Silt-control measures near watercourses
- Avoiding works during adverse weather conditions that increase GCN activity

6. Habitat Creation and Enhancement Measures

- Creation of refuge and hibernacula features
- Creation of log and brash piles
- Enhancement of grassland and scrub mosaic
- Connectivity improvements across northern and southern areas
- Long-term protection of ditch habitats
- Delivery of habitat improvements as set out in the BNG Assessment (27 August 2025)

7. Long-Term Management and Monitoring

A 30-year Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan (HMMP) will ensure habitat quality is maintained. This includes annual checks of created and enhanced habitat, EPSL-condition monitoring, adaptive management measures and maintenance of all refuge features.

8. Licensing Statement

This GCN Mitigation and Enhancement Plan will accompany the EPSL application to Natural England. All mitigation, protection and habitat-creation measures will be implemented strictly in accordance with EPSL conditions once granted.

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