

## Fosgate House Tennis Court

### Method Statement - Protecting and safeguarding Great Crested Newts during the construction of the tennis court

This method statement sets out how Great Crested Newts will be protected during the construction of the proposed tennis court. There is a pond around 300m to the south east of the application site where there is a confirmed record of great crested newts (GCN). GCN can travel up to 500 metres away from ponds and spend most of their lifecycle on land, returning to ponds to breed. The proposed tennis court would be sited in an area of short cut lawn which is a lower quality habitat but might possibly be used by GCN.

GCN are a fully protected species and benefit from protection in the planning process. The construction of a new tennis court as proposed does not directly affect the nearest ponds or the immediate surrounding terrestrial habitat used by GCN (and it is considered unlikely that the court will adversely affect populations of GCN). However, the proposed tennis court will need to be constructed with appropriate care and mitigation measures will be included to ensure the avoidance of any damage to GCN that could potentially be present nearby. The presence of GCN will be considered at all times during the development works and all appropriate precautions will be taken.

The construction process will therefore adopt the following measures:

1. Just prior to commencement of construction there will be a search of the affected area by an appropriate experienced ecologist licensed by Natural England. The initial mechanical removal of grass and top soil as necessary will be carried out as carefully as possible and in the presence of the licensed ecologist. The ecologist should search for any great crested newts and other amphibians in front of the excavator and direct operations if necessary.
2. In the event of any GCN being found during the search, work will temporarily stop to allow the ecologist to carefully remove any GCN and other amphibians encountered. These will be safely relocated to suitable areas away from construction works by the ecologist.
3. During the course of the construction works any holes or trenches dug should ideally be re-filled the same day. If this is not possible and holes and trenches are left overnight during warm weather conditions when night time temperatures are above 4 °C, the holes must be inspected in the morning for the presence of GCN and other wildlife which may fall into such holes at night. Where possible, planks of timber should be positioned within any open holes and trenches and sloped to allow GCN and other wildlife a means of escape.
4. Excavated material, grass, soil etc, will be cleared and removed from site immediately and will not be left on the ground for any length of time, to avoid any piles of such material being used as places of shelter by GCN and other amphibians.

## Figure 8

5. During the course of the construction works, care will be taken to avoid, as far as possible, the creation of possible places of shelter for GCN by the onsite storage of materials. Wherever possible, building materials will be stored on pallets on open bare ground or hard standing away from any vegetation. Great care will be taken with the removal or lifting of stored building materials and an inspection should be made for GCN and other amphibians in places where stored materials have been removed.
6. Should any GCN be encountered at any time during the construction of the tennis court, all works will stop and further advice will be sought from the appointed ecologist.

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