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Great Crested Newt Assessment

Survey site:

Crumpsall Park Visitor Centre, Ash Tree Rd, Crumpsall, Manchester, M8 5RX

Client:

Corstorphine and Wright on behalf of SIB and Manchester City Council

Survey date:

08/08/2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Manchester City Council. The proposal is described as:

Installation of a modular-built scout and community facility to replace the existing building on-site, including associated landscaping.

142985/VO/2025

PEA survey methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.**

The site survey was undertaken by Katie Crawford BSc MRes ACIEEM (Natural England Protected Species Licence Numbers: [Bats] (2023-11335-CL18-BAT) [Great Crested Newts] (2023-11555-CL08-GCN)					
Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
08/08/2025	20	50	50	22	None

Survey Factor	**Detailed using desk study and site survey. Any specific limitations noted within relevant section. This table may include further work you will need to commission (if any) to obtain planning permission or comply with legislation for other consent. All clients are expected to read and understand this section, or to contact the lead surveyor for advice.**
See plan in Appendix 1, location plan in Appendix 2 and photos in Appendix 3.	
Background and Site Location	
Summary of site and desk Study	Site description The site is centred on SD 84494 02193 and has an area of 0.15ha. The site contains a building, an area of amenity grassland with an area used as a community used as a garden, fruit trees, dense scrub and a boundary fence. The site is within Crumpsall Park and within an urban area of Crumpsall near Manchester. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) with associated report was prepared by Ascerta in October 2024, highlighting the following: *The site was subject to an extended phase one habitat survey and a preliminary bat roost assessment of all buildings. During the survey and following review of historical species records, it is considered that an impact on birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians and hedgehog are likely to occur in relation to the proposals for the site.*

	The report refers to a small pond outside but adjacent to the site boundary. A response by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) in August 2025 requested clarification on the following: *The PEA states 'the pond on site is unlikely to support great crested newt', when referring to the pond just outside of the site boundary. My assumption is that this is due to there being low water levels currently, however it is not clearly stated why and we would expect a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) to be undertaken to evidence the ponds suitability for GCN. Also, there appears to be no mention to any other ponds located within 250m of the site which may be suitable for GCN, this must also be considered.* Therefore, this report has been prepared to inform the GMEU of the status of Great Crested Newts at the site and to provide a robust assessment of impacts. An updated site walkover was undertaken to inform this report.
Field survey results	
Summary of Survey Findings	A review of the MAGIC database returned no granted EPSL records for great crested newts within 2km of the site. Further, no positive class survey licence return or DLL historic survey data (2017 – 2019) were present within 2km of the site. During the survey, the area of a potential pond was discovered to contain a lined ditch with bricks and debris, with no water present at the time of survey. Upon inspection, as the pond is approximately 5m^2, it is unlikely that this feature retains water for a proportion of the year. Given that the pond was dry, a full HSI was unable to be carried out, but considering the size of the ditch and the dry nature at the time of survey, it is considered that this would be **poor** suitability to support GCN.

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>A single pond is present within 500m of the site when consulting MAGIC, this is present approximately 225m northeast of the site within the land of a school. This is, however, separated from the site by urban land and well used roads. These landscape features are likely to represent a significant barrier to dispersal due to heavy traffic flow and high kerbs along the road, greatly reducing connectivity to the site for great crested newts.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Foreseen Impacts</td><td>If great crested newts are present within the pond 225m to the northeast of the site, when completing the rapid risk assessment published by Natural England (Natural England 2015), the proposed development produces an Green risk score, which states: Offence Highly Unlikely
<table>
<tr><th>Component</th><th>Likely effect (select one for each component; select the most harmful option if more than one is likely; lists are in order of harm, top to bottom)</th><th>Notional offence probability score</th></tr>
<tr><td>Great crested newt breeding pond(s)</td><td>No effect</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land within 100m of any breeding pond(s)</td><td>No effect</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land 100-250m from any breeding pond(s)</td><td>0.1 - 0.5 ha lost or damaged</td><td>0.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land >250m from any breeding pond(s)</td><td>No effect</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Individual great crested newts</td><td>No effect</td><td>0</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Maximum:</td><td>0.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Rapid risk assessment result:</td><td colspan="2">GREEN: OFFENCE HIGHLY UNLIKELY</td></tr>
</table>
The presence of GCN has not been fully ruled out for P1. However, given this pond was dry at the time of survey and given the size, it is considered highly unlikely great crested newts are breeding in this pond. Therefore, the risk to great crested newts is considered sufficiently low to warrant precautionary measures.</td></tr>
</table>

Recommendations	A precautionary working method will be implemented for common amphibians during construction, including the following measures: • A staged approach will be adopted for vegetation clearance, whereby the vegetation will be strimmed to 15cm and left overnight to allow any amphibians to disperse. The vegetation can then be cleared to ground level and must be maintained at this level for the duration of construction to deter amphibians from the working area. • Any rubble piles will be dismantled by hand and debris and brash will be stored on pallets or removed from the site to prevent amphibians from utilising these areas. • Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented to minimise impacts to nearby aquatic habitats that amphibians could use. • Any chemicals or pollutants used or created by the development should be stored and disposed of correctly according to COSHH regulations. • If any common amphibians are found in the working area these should be allowed to disperse of their own accord or, if at immediate risk, should be moved by hand to a sheltered, vegetated area away from disturbance. In the unlikely event that a great crested newt is identified, works must cease and advise must be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Appendix 1: Pond Plans


P2
P1
Legend
Red Line Boundary
Ponds
250m Buffer
Drawn by: K Crawford on 08-08-2025
Scale at A4 (not report projection)
1:5,000
Reproduced from GoogleEarth 2019
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0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 550 m


Legend
Red Line Boundary
Ponds
250m Buffer
P1
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70 m
Drawn by: K Crawford on
08-08-2025
Scale at A4
(not report
projection)
1:1,000
Reproduced from GoogleEarth 2019
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Appendix 2: Location map



Appendix 3: Photos



Photograph 1- P1 at time of survey.

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Version control			
Status	**Issue**	**Name**	**Date**
Draft	0.1	Katie Crawford BSc MRes ACIEEM	08/08/2025
Proof	0.2	Harley Stone BSc, Senior Ecologist	21/08/2025
Final	1.0		