



Precautionary Working Method Statement

FOR
Freehills Lodge
Dodwell Lane
Bursledon
SO31 1AB

N396 – Freehills Lodge Dodwell Lane Bursledon SO31 1AB

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February 2025

This precautionary working method statement has been prepared in support of an application for householder planning permission in relation to protecting wildlife and habitats during construction at the above named site during the construction of the new studio within the grounds of Freehills Lodge.

This working method statement outlines the precautionary measures to ensure that all activities on site avoid harm to the local environment, wildlife, and sensitive habitats, in particular to protect protected species such as great crested newts and other animals potentially residing in or near the construction site.

Relevant Legislation

Great crested newts and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Therefore, it is illegal to deliberately capture, injure, kill, disturb or take great crested newts or to damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any great crested newts occupying a place of shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any place of shelter or protection

To mitigate environmental risks, the following precautions will be taken:

- Material storage - All building materials to be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.
- Excavations – All excavations will be monitored to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped. Excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp.
- Fires - No fires shall be lit on site to prevent risks to wildlife, vegetation, and nearby habitats.
- Waste Management - Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Waste management practices will ensure no litter is left behind on-site
- Wildlife awareness - All contractors and personnel will be made aware of the potential presence of protected species, such as great crested newts, in the area. Any animals found on site should not be handled but be allowed to move away to a place of safety on their own. Should a great crested newt be found, contractors will be made aware that they are protected by law and all work must stop, and an ecologist must be consulted for advice.

Conclusion

The primary aim of this Precautionary Working Method Statement is to ensure that all construction activities on site are conducted with the utmost respect for the local environment and wildlife, in accordance with applicable environmental protection laws and best practices.