

Great Crested Newt (GCN) Fencing (also known as Temporary Amphibian Fencing TAF)

Fencing that is erected around and within the development has been installed as part of a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) issued by Natural England (NE).



Examples of TAF



GCN are afforded full protection under UK law (The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*)) and European law (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) which means it is illegal to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill any wild animal of a European Protected Species (EPS),
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (affecting ability to survive, breed or rear young),
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (impairing ability to migrate or hibernate),
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (affecting local distribution and abundance),
- Deliberately disturb wild animals of an EPS (whilst occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection) – intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection,
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a wild animal an EPS.
- Recklessly or intentionally kill, injures or take any wild animals included in Schedule 5.
- Recklessly or intentionally damage or destroy, or obstruct access to any structure or place which any wild animal included in Schedule 5 uses for shelter or protection,
- Recklessly or intentionally disturb any such animal while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection.

The EPSL is a legally binding document which authorises certain acts which would otherwise be committing an offence under the above legislation. A breach of the licence can therefore result in an offence being committed of which could result in a penalty of **£5000 and / or 6 months** in prison and / or development works being ceased.

The fence is utilised to prevent GCN from entering the working area. It does however, also provide an area of shelter and or rest at the base. As such **can only be removed / installed / altered during the period March – October (during suitable weather conditions under ecological supervision), in accordance with the EPS and with the prior consent of the named EPS licence holder.**

GCN fencing must be kept in good condition at all times and checked daily by the site manager. Repairs must be made within good time.

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