

## SMD/2019/0716 Condition 18 Moneystone Quarry Laboratory

### Ecological Method Statements

#### Introduction

Bowland Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Laver Leisure Ltd to produce ecological method statements for the laboratory change of use at Moneystone Quarry (OSGR: SD SK 04483 45737) (the Site). This is in relation to proposals for the re-development of the building and carpark as a leisure facility for use by guests of Moneystone Park which has received planning permission in a separate application.

The laboratory project was granted planning permission (SMD/2019/0716) in January 2024 with the following conditions in relation to mitigation method statements for protected species:

- 18. No works to implement the change of use hereby permitted shall commence until such time that Method Statements for the protection of amphibians, reptiles and badgers has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall thereafter be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved details.

This document is informed by a site survey undertaken in April 2026 during which an assessment was made of all areas of vegetation within the working area boundary, based on the standardised UKHab survey methodology (Butcher et al. 2020). This involved a walkover survey to identify vegetation types, which were then classified against those types set out in UKHab classification system V2.0 (UKHab Ltd, 2023). All habitats within the working area boundary were mapped and described. The survey was undertaken by Laura Bennett, MA Hons, MSc, ACIEEM on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026. The weather conditions were optimal and the whole of the Site was accessible. The working area boundary and habitats are provided in Appendix A. Site photos are provided in Appendix B.

#### Site Context and Evaluation of Potential Impacts

##### *Amphibians and Reptiles*

Great crested newts are a European protected species under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Reg 41 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Appendix D). Reptiles and other amphibians are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

- A medium sized metapopulation of great crested newts (GCN) have been found in ponds surveyed in 2010, 2014 and 2016, situated within 250 m of the laboratory project Site.
- A small population of grass snake and a medium population of slow worm and common lizard are also present within the surrounding Moneystone quarry habitats.

It is highly likely that a Natural England licence to disturb GCN will be acquired in relation to the wider Moneystone Park project (separate planning application) for the areas of highest impact in high value habitat, i.e. where earthworks, lodges and access roads are proposed within the south-eastern quarry area. However, the habitat within the

Laboratory project Site is considered to be of low value to GCN, being limited to a very small, narrow and linear area of ornamental shrubs and trees, and an area of grassland verge. The verge has a very short sward and abundant bare ground due to over grazing from rabbits, but no burrows or excavations. It is therefore considered unlikely that GCN will be encountered on the Site. In addition, given the limited area of habitat and the presence of hardstanding surrounding the shrubs and grassland it is considered unlikely that any amphibians or reptiles will be encountered. Furthermore, the habitats on Site are to be retained reducing the likelihood of any impact even further. It is therefore considered that the works can be undertaken under Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) (see Recommendations).

### *Badger*

Badgers are safeguarded from damage and disturbance under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (Appendix D). No badger setts have been identified within the working area. During site surveys in relation to the wider Moneystone Park the closest sett recorded was over 900 m to the north-east of the Site. However, badgers were observed during these surveys to be foraging within surrounding woodlands. Badgers and other terrestrial mammals (fox, deer, hedgehog) may forage and commute through the Site although the risk is considered very low given the very small area of potential foraging habitat on Site (ornamental shrubs and grassland verge). Potential impacts include: direct harm through injury or entrapment; and indirect impacts as a result of disturbance to commuting routes. RAMS should be applied throughout (see Recommendations).

## **Recommendations**

### *RAMS for Amphibians and Reptiles*

- Make contractors aware of possible presence of amphibians and reptiles including great crested newts on Site via toolbox talk delivered by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) and distribution of the contractor information sheets in Appendix C.
- High viz fencing (e.g. netlon) should be established around working areas and maintained throughout the works to prevent machine access onto habitats outside of the working area.
- All excavations to be covered overnight or fitted with earth ramps or wooden ramps at an angle of 45° to allow any trapped animals to escape. All excavations to be checked in the morning prior to commencement of works.
- All works, stockpiling of materials or storage of machinery must be contained within sub-optimal habitat (hard standing) and any spoil stored on site will be compacted;
- Should any amphibians or reptiles be encountered by the contractor works should stop in that area until further advice is sought from the scheme ecologist.

Post-works, the following elements must be implemented to the final construction and signed off by the scheme ecologist:

- Should gully pots be installed, these must be fitted with amphibian ladders to ensure any amphibians that fall in can escape; and
- Any proposed kerbing must include appropriate and regular drops to allow amphibians to escape the roadway should they fall down kerbs.

## RAMS for Badger

- Make contractors aware of possible presence of mammals on site via toolbox talk delivered by the ECoW and distribution of the contractor information sheets in Appendix C.
- If a foraging or commuting badger is encountered during works, pause work and let it disperse freely
- All excavations to be backfilled at the end of the day or covered overnight and fitted with earth ramps or wooden ramps at an angle of 45° to allow any trapped animals to escape.
- All excavations to be checked in the morning prior to commencement of works.
- Any open pipework over a diameter of 150mm is to be capped or kept covered overnight to prevent animals entering and becoming trapped;
- No works should be undertaken overnight or within 30 minutes after sunrise or 30 minutes before sunset. Any artificial lighting deployed on the Site should be directed only where it is needed and motion activated to limit light spillage onto surrounding habitats. Artificial lighting should not be directed towards the tree line to the west of the works area
- Should any animal holes be discovered during the works, such as in spoil piles works within 30m of the hole must be paused until an SQE can attend to confirm absence of badgers; and
- A high standard of housekeeping is to be maintained throughout the duration of the works.

## General:

Pollution incidents can also affect the species of interest therefore the following pollution prevention measures, published by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), should be adhered to during works:

- Vehicle refuelling in designated compounds/areas and fuel stored in double bunded containers;
- Drip trays or plant nappies to be used when refuelling and left under stationary machinery;
- Oil spill kits to be kept on site and within all machines;
- Any materials removed from the Site must be stored in a bunded area on hardstanding, compacted and protected from potential rainfall to reduce runoff, and replaced upon completion of the works;
- Dampening down of all work surfaces during works likely to create dust; and
- High standards of housekeeping maintained throughout the duration of the works.

|                                                                                   |                                                                           |                                                    |            |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Document Title: BOW111<br>Moneystone Quarry Laboratory:<br>Ecological Advice Note | Author: Laura Bennett, MA<br>(Hons), MSc, ACIEEM,<br>Biodiversity Manager | QA; Jeremy James, MSc,<br>BSc (Hons), CEcol, CEnv. | Version: 1 | Date: 10/06/2026 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|

## Appendix A – Site Location and Habitats



## Appendix B – Site Photographs

| Description                                                                                                      | Photograph                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Potential habitat limited to a small area of ornamental shrubs and grassland verge surrounded by sealed surface. |   |
| The remainder of the Site comprises sealed surface and building.                                                 |  |

## Appendix C – Information Sheets for Contractors

# Great Crested Newt

GCN may be present on site or in the area. Please read for information, legal responsibility and best practice in the consultancy industry.




### Legal Information

**It is illegal to deliberately:**

- Capture, disturb, injure or kill a GCN;
- Take or destroy GCN eggs; and
- Damage or destroy a breeding site used by a GCN.

**Penalties on conviction:**

- Maximum fine of unlimited value, up to six months in prison, per offence and forfeiture of items used to commit the offence e.g. vehicles, plant, machinery.

**The following points are defences:**

- Tending/caring for a GCN solely for restoring health and subsequent release; and
- Mercy killing where there is no reasonable hope of recovery (if person did not cause the injury in the first place – in which case the illegal act has already taken place).



Male GCN (up to 15cm in length)

Both sexes have a distinctive spotted orange belly



GCN egg

### Found a GCN?

- If you suspect you have found GCN whilst on site, you must **stop works immediately and contact the project ecologist for further advice (Call 01200 446 777)**;
- If GCN is in immediate danger, move to safe area using damp, gloved hands; and
- Once ecologist has deemed it safe to proceed, you must continue works in line with the ecology report and/or license terms.

### Other Protected Amphibians

**Common Toad**

- Species of principal importance protected under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, alongside section 9 of the Wildlife & Countryside act (WCA) 1981, which prohibits the 'sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale and advertising to sell or buy'.

**Common frog and smooth and palmate newt**

- All three also protected under section 9 of the WCA 1981.

**Natterjack Toad**

- The natterjack toad (which are smaller than common toads at 6-7cm given full protection by S9 of the WCA as it is a threatened and rare species in the UK, confined to only a few coastal territories); and
- It is an offence to 'intentionally kill, injure or take, possess or intentionally disturb whilst occupying 'a place used for shelter or protection' and destruction of these places; sale, barter, exchange, transporting for sale or advertising to sell or buy.



Common Toad



Male smooth newt



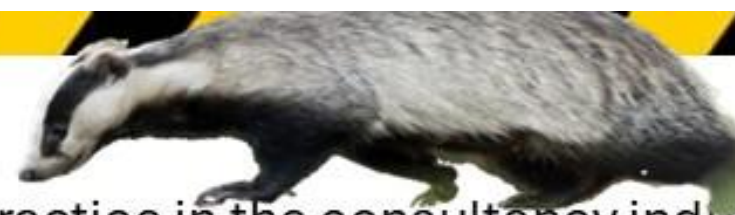
Common frog

### Recognising GCN

- Adult GCN are larger than common newts and very dark in colour;
- Males can have a large crest during breeding season and their tail has a striking silver stripe;
- Whilst females do not have some of these characteristic features, their size, dark colouring and silver speckles along the side of their body distinguish them from common newts;
- GCN eggs are oval shape and pale yellow to white in colour; and
- They have a distinctive orange spotted belly, which is unique to each individual.

# Badgers

Information, legal responsibility and practice in the consultancy industry



## Legal Information

Badgers are protected by UK law, (Protection of badgers Act 1992) meaning it is an offence to:

- Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger;
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett;
- Disturb a badger in its sett.
- Cruel ill-treatment of a badger sett including digging specifically for a badger
- Allowing or causing a dog to enter a badger sett



It is not illegal to carry out disturbance activities in the vicinity of setts that are not in current use, this must be reliably established through professional surveys.

Penalties on conviction: the maximum fine is £5,000, up to six months in prison, per offence and forfeiture of items used to commit the offence, e.g. vehicles, plant, machinery

## Overview

Badgers are species of small carnivorous mammals that play a key role in ecological balance. The species thrives in deciduous woodlands with clearings or open pastureland with small patches of woodland but is also found in mixed woodlands, scrub, suburban areas and urban parks. They play a key role in ecological balance; shaping woodland and grassland landscaped by creating well-trodden pathways and landscaping undergrowth

Although listed as 'least concern' by the IUCN, badgers are still at threat from land-use changes particularly in agricultural areas meaning habitat loss and thus subsequent declines. Another major threat is roadkill as approximately 50000 badgers are killed on British roads every year. The population has steadily recovered since protection was first introduced in the 1970s and in Britain today there is approximately 560000 individuals.

## Distribution

Found throughout the entirety of Britain but are scarcer in Scotland. Absent only from isles of Aran, Anglesey, Wight, Sheppey, and Skye



## Procedure when found

If you find a badger, sett, sign or suspect badger may be present you must **stop works immediately** and contact **the project manager**. Contractors should avoid disturbing badgers or working within 30 m of a sett.

**Badger sett, sign or badger is in immediate danger:**

**Stop works** ----- > Gloves on ----- > place water vole in a box/safe place ----- > Call Bowland Ecology (Tel. 01200 446777)

**Badger sett, sign or Badger is not in immediate danger:**

**Stop works** ----- > Call Bowland Ecology (Tel. 01200 446777)



## Activities to avoid

- |                                           |                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| • Pile driving                            | • Ploughing and harvesting crops                       |
| • Quarry blasting                         | • Tree felling and timber extraction                   |
| • Lighting fires                          | • Construction repair of flood defences or waterbodies |
| • Using chemicals                         | • Blocking access to setts / foraging areas            |
| • Excavations                             |                                                        |
| • Destroying or damaging their sets       |                                                        |
| • Noise, additional lighting or vibration |                                                        |



## Recognising badgers



**Setts** - Usually D-shaped with a flat bottom (around 30 cm wide by 20 cm high) with signs of fresh excavated material at the entrance or piles of leaves, dry grass, straw or bracken



**Hair** - Usually about 10 cm long and is banded with black and white and can be found at sett entrances or caught on a fence line, plants or tree bark close to badger paths.



**Face** - Have characteristic black and white striped face, very occasionally they can be creamy white or red/ginger in colour. Fully grown adults can be up to 1 metre in length and weigh up to 14 kg.



**Footprint** - Badger's footprints have a kidney-shaped pad with five toes pointing upwards



**Latrines** - Badgers dig uniquely shallow holes for their droppings



## Appendix D – Legal Information

This report provides guidance of potential offences as part of the impact assessment. This report does not provide detailed legal advice and for full details of potential offences against protected species the relevant acts should be consulted in their original forms i.e. The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended, The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

| Species                                                                                                                                      | Legislation                                                                       | Offences                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Notes on licensing procedures and further advice                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Species that are protected by European and national legislation</b>                                                                       |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Badger</b>                                                                                                                                | Protection of Badgers Act 1992                                                    | Wilfully kill, injure or take a badger;<br>Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett;<br>Disturb a badger in its sett.<br>It is not illegal to carry out disturbance activities in the vicinity of setts that are not occupied. | Where required, licences for development activities involving sett loss, damage or disturbance are issued by Natural England (NE). Licences for activities involving watercourse maintenance, drainage works or flood defences are issued under a separate process.<br>Licences are normally not granted from December to June inclusive because cubs may be present within setts.<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/badgers-protection-surveys-and-licences">https://www.gov.uk/badgers-protection-surveys-and-licences</a> |
| <b>Great crested newt</b><br><i>European protected species</i>                                                                               | Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 Reg 41                      | Deliberately <sup>1</sup> capture, injure or kill a great crested newt; Deliberate disturbance <sup>2</sup> of a great crested newt; Deliberately take or destroy its eggs;<br>Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a great crested newt.       | Licences issued for development by NE.<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/great-crested-newts-protection-surveys-and-licences">https://www.gov.uk/great-crested-newts-protection-surveys-and-licences</a><br><i>European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing - How to get a licence</i> (NE 2010)<br><i>Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines</i> (English Nature 2001)                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                              | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) <sup>4</sup> S.9                   | Intentionally or recklessly <sup>3</sup> obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a great crested newt in such a place.                                                                                                    | Licences issued for science (survey), education, and conservation by NE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Reptiles (species that are not European protected):</b><br><b>Adder</b><br><b>Common lizard</b><br><b>Grass snake</b><br><b>Slow worm</b> | Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) <sup>4</sup> S.9(1) (part); S.9(5) | Intentionally kill or injure any common reptile species.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No licence is required in England.<br>However, an assessment for the potential of a site to support reptiles should be undertaken prior to any development works which have potential to affect these animals.<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/reptiles-protection-surveys-and-licences">https://www.gov.uk/reptiles-protection-surveys-and-licences</a>                                                                                                                                                                   |

<sup>1</sup> Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing <sup>2</sup> Deliberate disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong. Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 remain an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided. Thus, deliberate disturbance that does not result in either (a) or (b) above would be classed as a lower level of disturbance. <sup>3</sup> The term ‘reckless’ is defined by the case of Regina versus Caldwell 1982. The prosecution has to show that a person deliberately took an unacceptable risk or failed to notice or consider an obvious risk. <sup>4</sup> The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) has been updated by various amendments, including the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. A full list of amendments can be found at <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/wildlife-countryside-act/>