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BY Email

GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEYS LICKERS LANE, HALSNEAD

BACKGROUND

E3P were instructed to undertake great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) eDNA surveys at Lickers Lane, Halsnead, hereafter referred to as "the site".

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken on 26th August 2021 (report reference: 80-571-R2-1) by Huw Morgan, BSc (Hons), ACIEEM, MEnvSc, Senior Ecologist at E3P, and Rhian Keating, BSc (Hons), MSc, QCIEEM, Graduate Ecologist at E3P. A total of two waterbodies (Waterbody 1 and Waterbody 2) were identified within 250 m of the site.

GREAT CRESTED NEWT EDNA SURVEYS

The eDNA survey was undertaken on 7th July 2022 by Olivia McKechnie BSc (Hons), QCIEEM, Project Manager of Ecology who holds a Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence (2021-10014-CL08-GCN). The survey comprised a water sample extraction and lab analysis for GCN eDNA following the protocol set out in Appendix 5 of the DEFRA WC1067 Technical Advice Note. The water sample was analysed by SureScreen Scientifics.

Water samples were collected from Waterbody 1 and Waterbody 2 during the survey. Three other waterbodies (Waterbody 3, Waterbody 4, and Waterbody 5) were identified during the survey, however these were dry and as such no eDNA samples could be taken from these locations. Because they were dry, Waterbodies 3, 4, and 5 were considered unsuitable to support great crested newts and no further action is deemed to be necessary. Please see Figure I for Approximate Waterbody Locations.



FIGURE 1 APPROXIMATE WATERBODY LOCATIONS



RESULTS

The results of the survey were received on 22nd July 2022. Waterbody 1 and Waterbody 2 tested **NEGATIVE** for the presence of great crested newts. Please see Figure 2 detailing the results.

FIGURE 1 EDNA RESULTS

Lab Sample No.	Site Name	O/S Reference	SIC	DC	IC	Result	Positive Replicates
7276	Lickers Lane, WB1	SJ4758890438	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
7284	Lickers Lane, WB2	SJ4744590060	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0

LIMITATIONS

The survey was undertaken on 7th July 2022 which is 7 days outside of the survey season as outlined within Appendix 5 of the DEFRA WC1067 Technical Advice Note. The results of the surveys are still anticipated to be valid as research undertaken to date has shown that great crested newt eDNA can be effective outside of the timings outlined by Natural England and there would be cause to extend the survey period (Rees, H. C., Baker, C. A., Gardner, D. S., Maddison, B. C., & Gough, K. C. (2017). The detection of great crested newts year-round via environmental DNA analysis. BMC Research Notes, 10(1), 1-4.).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Great crested newts have been confirmed as absent from WB1 and WB2. Therefore, no further surveys or precautionary working methods in relation to great crested newts are required for development to proceed. The survey results will be valid for two years to inform a planning application.



Lickers Lane, Halsnead
Vistry Partnerships
July 2022

**Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of E3P Ltd**

Ciara Bass
Graduate Ecologist

