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GREAT CRESTED NEWT PRESENCE SURVEY

**Land at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe,
South Yorkshire, S72 7FZ
Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851**

Client:	Oaklands Golf and Leisure
Issue Date:	12 th September 2023
Surveys Conducted:	March – May 2023

Planning permission is being proposed for improvement to agricultural land at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851). An initial assessment was carried out in 2022 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS) as part of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey. Seven ponds were mapped on site with a further 2 within 250m of the site. All ponds on site were dry at the time of surveys. The site was revisited in March 2023, 3 ponds on site and 2 off site were found to hold water, the remaining ponds on site were found to be dry. 5 ponds were subjected to 4x GCN presence / absence surveys during March – May 2023. No signs of GCN were found. Due to a history of GCN being on site a further 2 visits were conducted in June 2023, again no signs of GCN were noted. It is considered that an application for a Natural England Protected Species Mitigation licence is not required for this site.

This report should be read in conjunction with Environmental Business Solutions report "Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851) 2022.

William Gaudie
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Ecological Consultant- Environmental Business Solutions



1. Introduction

- 1.1 Planning permission is being proposed for re-landscaping at Grimethorpe Colliery, Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire (Grid Ref: SE 3993 0851).
- 1.2 An initial assessment was carried out in March 2022 by Environmental Business Solutions (EBS) as part of a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal survey. All ponds on site were found to be completely dry, with 2 ponds off site holding water. The site was revisited in March 2023, 3 ponds on site and 2 off site were found to hold water, the remaining ponds on site were found to be dry. 5 ponds were subjected to 4x GCN presence / absence surveys during March – May 2023. No signs of GCN were found. Due to a history of GCN being on site a further 2 visits were conducted in June 2023, again no signs of GCN were noted. Environmental Business Solutions (EBS) conducted thorough and full GCN presence / absence surveys on the
- 1.3 No GNCs or signs of their presence were note in any pond.
- 1.4 It is considered that the development will not have an affect on any population of GCNs.

2. Legislation

2.1 Great Crested Newt

- 2.1.1 The Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) receives full protection under Schedule 2 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats&c) Regulations 1994 (as amended). Regulation 39 prohibits;
 - Deliberate killing, injuring or taking of species listed on Schedule 2
 - Deliberate disturbance of any Schedule 2 species as;
 - a) To impair their ability:
 - i. To survive, breed, or reproduce, or to rear or nurture young;
 - ii. In the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate³
 - b) To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species
 - Deliberate taking or destroying of the eggs of a Schedule 2 species
 - Damage or destruction of a breeding site or resting place
 - Keeping, transporting, selling, exchanging or offering for sale whether live or dead or of any part thereof
- 2.1.2 Great Crested Newts are also currently listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this act they are additionally protected from:
 - Intentional or reckless disturbance (at any level)
 - Intentional or reckless obstruction of access to any place of shelter or protection
 - Selling, offering or exposing for sale, possession or transporting for purpose of sale.
- 2.1.3 If GCN are to be affected by any development activities, a Natural England European Protected Species licence will be required to derogate from the relevant legislation and to mitigate any detrimental effects.

Fig 1. Position of Ponds in relation to proposed Site.  Holding water  Dry.



3. Methodology.

- 3.1 Great Crested Newt Presence / Absence Surveys.
 - 3.1.1 Ponds 1 - 5 were surveyed March to June 2023 for the presence of GCNs (Fig 1 for locations).
 - 3.1.2 The surveys were carried out in accordance with Natural England guidelines (Anon. August 2001. *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*. English Nature, Peterborough.).
 - 3.1.3 Surveys were conducted by William Gaudie and Janet Gorst. Mr Gaudie is Principal Ecologist at EBS and holds Natural England class survey licenses (**class licence registration number 20158032**) in respect of Great crested newt (**WML CL08 Level 1**) and bats (**WML CL18 - Bat Survey Level 2**). William is a Senior Consultant Ecologist at EBS with over 16 years' experience as a professional consultant in ecology and is a Full Member of CIEEM. Janet is an Ecologist at EBS.
 - 3.1.4 Each water body surveyed was visited on 6 occasions. Each visit consisted of five survey techniques.
 - 3.1.5 The surveys were fully supervised by a Natural England great crested newt licence holder; William Gaudie N.E. Licence No – CLS 20112112 and assisted by Ms J Gorst, BSc hon.
 - 3.1.6 Each night time visit consisted of the three following survey techniques; bottle trapping, torch surveys and netting.
 - 3.1.7 Egg searches and refuge searches were also conducted each morning.
 - 3.1.8 Surveys were carried out during suitable weather conditions.

4. Results

- 4.1 Great Crested Newt Presence / Absence Surveys.
 - 4.1.1 GCNs were not noted in any of the ponds surveyed.
 - 4.1.2 No GCN eggs were noted in any of the ponds.
 - 4.1.3 Due to the above it is considered that an offence occurring under Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) or Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is deemed highly unlikely.
 - 4.1.4 See Appendix 2 for full breakdown.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Great Crested Newt (and other amphibians).
 - 5.1.1 No mitigation is thought necessary at the present moment.

6. Conclusions.

Great Crested Newts were not detected in any of the ponds surveyed. It is therefore considered that the likelihood of an offence occurring under Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994 (as amended) or Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is deemed highly unlikely, therefore it is the opinion of EBS that a Natural England European Protected Species Mitigation Licence is not required for this Site at present.

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APPENDIX 1

Proposed Development – Grimethorpe Colliery

SURVEY DATA March – June 2023

GREAT CRESTED NEWT PRESENCE / ABSENCE SURVEY

POND 1 – Proposed Development – Grimethorpe Colliery													
Date / Weather	Great Crested Newt									Other amphibian			
	Eggs	Traps		Torch		Netting		Refuge		Frog	Toad	Palmate	Smooth
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
31.03.2023 Min Temp 9.5°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.04.2023 Min Temp 11.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.04.2023 Min Temp 13.0°C Rain shower Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
15.05.2023 Min Temp 10.0°C Rain Nil Wind 5m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
01.06.2023 Min Temp 12.0°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0
07.06.2023 Min Temp 14.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
NOTES: Peak count = 0. No signs of Great Crested Newt found,													

POND 2 – Proposed Development – Grimethorpe Colliery													
Date / Weather	Great Crested Newt									Other amphibian			
	Eggs	Traps		Torch		Netting		Refuge		Frog	Toad	Palmate	Smooth
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
31.03.2023 Min Temp 9.5°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.04.2023 Min Temp 11.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
30.04.2023 Min Temp 13.0°C Rain shower Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
15.05.2023 Min Temp 10.0°C Rain Nil Wind 5m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
01.06.2023 Min Temp 12.0°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
07.06.2023 Min Temp 14.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
NOTES: Peak count = 0. No signs of Great Crested Newt found,													

POND 3 – Proposed Development – Grimethorpe Colliery													
Date / Weather	Great Crested Newt									Other amphibian			
	Eggs	Traps		Torch		Netting		Refuge		Frog	Toad	Palmate	Smooth
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
31.03.2023 Min Temp 9.5°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.04.2023 Min Temp 11.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.04.2023 Min Temp 13.0°C Rain shower Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.05.2023 Min Temp 10.0°C Rain Nil Wind 5m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01.06.2023 Min Temp 12.0°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07.06.2023 Min Temp 14.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NOTES: Peak count = 0. No signs of Great Crested Newt found,													

POND 4 – Proposed Development – Grimthorpe Colliery													
Date / Weather	Great Crested Newt									Other amphibian			
	Eggs	Traps		Torch		Netting		Refuge		Frog	Toad	Palmate	Smooth
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
31.03.2023 Min Temp 9.5°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
16.04.2023 Min Temp 11.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
30.04.2023 Min Temp 13.0°C Rain shower Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
15.05.2023 Min Temp 10.0°C Rain Nil Wind 5m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
01.06.2023 Min Temp 12.0°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
07.06.2023 Min Temp 14.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
NOTES: Peak count = 0. No signs of Great Crested Newt found,													

POND 5 – Proposed Development – Grimethorpe Colliery													
Date / Weather	Great Crested Newt									Other amphibian			
	Eggs	Traps		Torch		Netting		Refuge		Frog	Toad	Palmate	Smooth
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female				
31.03.2023 Min Temp 9.5°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
16.04.2023 Min Temp 11.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
30.04.2023 Min Temp 13.0°C Rain shower Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
15.05.2023 Min Temp 10.0°C Rain Nil Wind 5m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
01.06.2023 Min Temp 12.0°C Rain Nil Wind 8m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0
07.06.2023 Min Temp 14.0°C Rain Nil Wind 7m/s	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
NOTES: Peak count = 0. No signs of Great Crested Newt found,													