

LB REF: 2626 / LR01 / VW

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16th May 2013

Dear Mr Brett

**LAND AT ABBEY WAY, WILLESBOROUGH LEES, ASHFORD:**

**GREAT CRESTED NEWT PRESENCE / LIKELY ABSENCE SURVEY LETTER REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

- During the first survey visit for a presence / likely absence survey for great crested newts, three water-bodies were found to hold insufficient water levels to support great crested newt through the breeding season.
- No further survey work is recommended with regard to great crested newts.

**BACKGROUND**

Lloyd Bore Ltd. was commissioned by the client, BDB Design LLP, to undertake a great crested newt presence / likely absence survey of four water-bodies within 250m of the survey site; three ponds and one stream. These water-bodies were highlighted as having potential to support great crested newt during the initial Ecological Appraisal and Habitat Suitability Index (see Lloyd Bore Ltd. report 2626/R01, April 2013).

*The water-bodies*

- The stream adjacent to the east of the site. The stream is very slow moving and still in places. It supports little emergent vegetation, although the stream-side vegetation is dense in places. It is over-shaded by boundary trees.
- A garden pond adjacent to the east of the site. The pond is approximately 30m<sup>2</sup>. It supports emergent boundary vegetation; mainly grasses.
- An attenuation pond adjacent to the southeast of the site. This pond is approximately 300m<sup>2</sup> and supports dense stands of bulrush (*Talpa latifolia*).
- An attenuation pond within an area of open green space approximately 155m to the south of the site. This pond is approximately 300m<sup>2</sup> and supports dense stands of bulrush (*Talpa latifolia*).

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## **PRESENCE / LIKELY ABSENCE SURVEY 2013**

### **Results**

The first survey visit was carried out by a licenced surveyor on 8th May 2013 following Natural England guidelines.

During this survey both water-bodies were found to hold insufficient water-levels to support a population of great crested newts.

The attenuation ponds were completely dry. The garden pond supported a very shallow pool of turbid water and is obviously highly ephemeral. The stream supporting a very shallow level of water.

As a result, it was not possible to carry out a great crested newt presence / likely absence survey.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Given the annual dessication of these water-bodies, none provide suitable habitat to support a viable population of great crested newts, which are therefore unlikely to be present.

As such no further survey work or mitigation is required.

As enhancement, the creation of a water-body within the survey site, that held water for at least the spring and summer months, would be highly beneficial to amphibian species within the surrounding area.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



Verity Webster MSc BSc (Hons.)

*Head of Ecology*

*For and on behalf of Lloyd Bore Ltd.*

### **REFERENCES**

English Nature 2001, Great crested newt mitigation guidelines, English Nature, Peterborough, UK.

Langton, T.E.S., Beckett, C.L., and Foster, J.P (2001). Great crested newt conservation handbook, Froglife, Halesworth.

Oldham, R.S., Keeble, J., Swan, M.J.S., and Jeffcote, M (2000). Evaluating the suitability of habitat for great crested newt. Herpetological Journal 10(4): 143-155.

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