



Hillier Ecology

Hillier Ecology Limited
127 Fletton Avenue, Peterborough, PE2 8BX
Office: 01733 894979 Mobile: 07730758439
howardhillier@btinternet.com

Ecological Consultants - Mitigation Solutions - Habitat Management

Registered in England and Wales 07571819

Pond Adjacent to The Dovecote, Great Thurlow

Summary

Hillier Ecology Limited were commissioned by Thurlow Estate to carry out ecology surveys at The Dovecote, Great Thurlow. As part of this work a pond adjacent to the site was assessed as to its suitability for supporting Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*.



Howard Hillier who holds Natural England Great Crested Newt Survey Licence 2016-21716-CLS-CLS attended on 25th September 2020 and carried out a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment of the pond.



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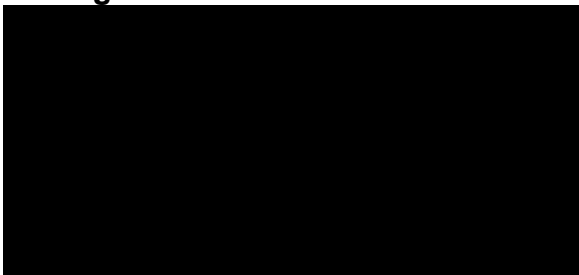
The HSI for Great Crested Newt was developed by (Oldham et al 2000) and is a numerical index, between 0.01 and 1, 0.01 indicates unsuitable habitat, 1 represents optimal habitat.

The HSI for Great Crested Newt incorporates ten suitability indices, all of which are factors thought to affect Great Crested Newt. The ten suitability indices are as follows:

- Location
- Pond area
- Pond drying
- Water quality
- Shade
- Fowl
- Fish
- Ponds
- Terrestrial habitat
- Macrophytes

The table below shows the categorisation of the HSI scores and Pond Suitability.

Categorisation of HSI Scores and Pond Suitability



The assessment resulted in a score of 0.54 which indicates Pond suitability of Below Average; only an estimated 20% of Below Average Ponds are occupied by Great Crested Newt. Detailed results are shown in the table below.



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Indices	Result
Location	1.0
Pond area	0.98
Pond drying	0.1
Water quality	0.33
Shade	0.2
Fowl	1.0
Fish	1.0
Ponds	0.72
Terrestrial habitat	0.67
Macrophytes	0.7
HSI	0.54
Pond suitability	Below average
Predicted pond occupancy	0.2

Given the results of the HSI assessment there are no recommendations for further surveys or mitigation measures.

Legal Protection

Great Crested Newt are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), through inclusion in Schedule 5. Great Crested Newt are also included in Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The following account is a simplified summary. Taken together the Act and Regulations make it illegal to:

- Intentionally or deliberately kill, injure or capture Great Crested Newt.
- Deliberately disturb Great Crested Newt or intentionally or recklessly disturb them in a place used for shelter or protection.
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.



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- Possess a Great Crested Newt, or any part of it, unless acquired legally.
- Sell, barter, exchange or transport or offer for sale Great Crested Newt or parts of them.

References

HMSO (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act, HMSO, London.

HMSO (2017). Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, HMSO, London.

Oldham RS, Keeble J, Swann MJS and Jeffcote M (2000). Evaluating the Suitability of Habitat for the Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*, Herpetological Journal 10 (4), 143-156 London.

Howard Hillier
Principal Ecologist
14th November 2020