

Ref: 80-877-L1-1
Date: 27th June 2022

SPECIALIST DIESELS LTD

Sydney Street
Accrington
BB5 6EG

BY Email

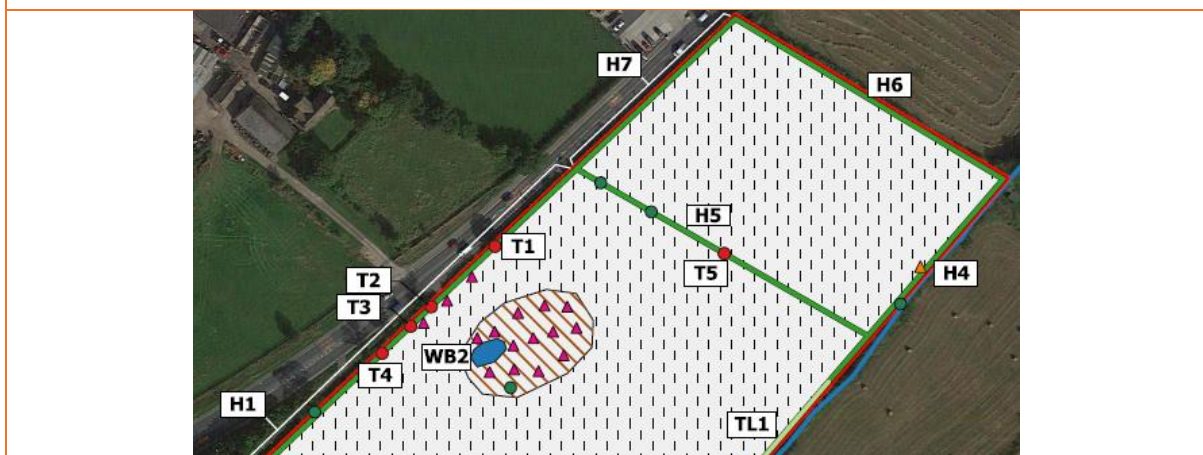
GREAT CRESTED NEWT EDNA SURVEYS CAUSEWAY FARM, BALDERSTONE

BACKGROUND

E3P were instructed by Specialist Diesels Ltd to undertake Great Crested Newt eDNA Surveys at Causeway Farm, Balderstone, hereafter referred to as “the site”.

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by E3P in June 2022 (report reference: 80-877-R1). One waterbody (WB2, as shown in Figure 1) was identified on-site, no other waterbodies which held water, or that were connected to the site were identified.

FIGURE 1 WATERBODY 2 LOCATION



GREAT CRESTED NEWT EDNA SURVEY

The eDNA survey was undertaken on 12th June 2022 by Celia Barlow BSc (Hons) MSc MEnvSc CEnv MCIEEM, who holds a Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence (2016-26721-CLS). The survey comprised water sample extraction and lab analysis for GCN eDNA following the protocol set out in Appendix 5 of the DEFRA WC1067 Technical Advice Note.

RESULTS

The results of the survey were received on 22nd June 2022. The waterbody tested **POSITIVE** for the presence of great crested newts. See Figure 2 for the full results of the eDNA analysis.

FIGURE 2		EDNA RESULTS					
Date sample received at Laboratory:		14/06/2022					
Date Reported:		22/06/2022					
Matters Affecting Results:		None					
Lab Sample No.	Site Name	O/S Reference	SIC	DC	IC	Result	Positive Replicates
5280	Causewas Farm	SD 64536 81464	Pass	Pass	Pass	Positive	4

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As the results of the eDNA Survey returned positive results, further mitigation for great crested newts will be required for the development to proceed. There are two options available, as detailed below:

GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEYS

A total of six surveys are required on the waterbody between mid-March to mid-June during suitable weather conditions, three of which are to be carried out between mid-April and mid-May. Survey methods include torching, eggs searches, bottle trapping and hand netting. These surveys are used to inform the population size class assessment. If no great crested newts are recorded during the first four visits, no further surveys regarding great crested newts will be required.

If great crested newts are identified, a Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence will be required for the works on-site to be completed. The licence will detail the mitigation required to protect great crested newts, which will include trapping out of the site. This involves the installation of drift fencing in suitable on-site habitat within 250 m of the positive ponds, with pitfall traps located along the fencing. The minimum trapping period must be no less than 30 days but may be 60 or 90 days depending on the population size class identified during the bottle trap surveys.

DISTRICT LEVEL LICENSING

A Natural England District Level Licensing Enquiry Form will be submitted initially for the site, which is used to determine if the site is suitable for the scheme. If the site is accepted, once planning permission is obtained, a Stage 2 application should be submitted to Natural England which includes site details, plans and a reasoned statement. A fee, defined during the initial enquiry will be required by Natural England to obtain a licence. Once the licence is obtained and the fee has been paid, works can commence immediately with no further mitigation. There is a possibility that the application may be rejected from the district licensing scheme due to the site's vicinity to pre-implemented compensation ponds. If the licence is rejected, Great Crested Newt Surveys and a standard Natural England European Protected Species Licence will be required, as detailed above.



Causeway Farm, Balderstone
Specialist Diesels Ltd
June 2022

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of E3P Ltd

Celia Barlow
Associate Director

