

Project:	Northern Dyers, Meltham, Huddersfield	Site Inspection Reference:	SI-8319-01
Date of inspection:	30/09/2025	No. of Pages:	2
Inspection carried out by:	Josh Birchall BSc (Hons) MCIEEM, Principal Ecologist		
Task Description:	<u>White-Clawed Crawfish (WCC) Survey</u> Brooks Ecological carried out physical searches and trapping surveys in October 2018 which did not find the presence of any crayfish, white clawed or other species. A survey was undertaken to confirm the continued likely absence of WCC within the watercourse 'Meltham Dike' which passes through the Site. This primarily used modern survey techniques in the form of eDNA testing supplemented with some physical search effort.		
Method & Survey:	<u>eDNA sampling</u> When aquatic organisms inhabit a waterbody such as a pond, lake or river they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analysing water samples, it is possible to detect these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) to confirm the presence or absence of the target species within the waterbody. Water samples were collected from Meltham Dike on the 30th September 2025, following the method as set out in the SureScreen Scientifics Technical White Paper and Filtration Sample Collection Guide. This included collecting 20 subsamples from the watercourse, avoiding disruption of sediment. Following which, as much of this sample was passed through the filter as possible, the filter was emptied of water, filled with preservative and returned to the lab. <u>Hand search</u> After water samples had been collected, the river was re-entered at a downstream point, and several stones and artificial refugia (i.e. bricks, roof tiles) were also turned to search for direct evidence of white clawed crayfish.		
Results:	<u>eDNA analysis</u> Water samples were tested by SureScreen Scientific, and a Negative result was returned for: White-clawed crayfish and Crayfish Plague (see Appendix 1). <u>Hand search</u> Survey, carried out during optimal weather conditions and time of year, found no evidence of any crayfish species within the section of watercourse running through the Site.		
Conclusions and Recommendations:	eDNA testing supplemented with physical search effort has been able to demonstrate the continued likely absence of WCC from within the Meltham Dike in this reach. No further survey or specific mitigation is considered necessary.		

Appendix 1 - SureScreen Scientific Results

Results

Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Target Species	Sample Integrity Check	Result	Positive Replicates
FK3686	Meltham Northern Dyers	SE 108 111	Crayfish plague (Aphanomyces astaci)	Pass	Negative	0
			White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	Pass	Negative	0

Matters affecting result: none