



FUTURESECOLOGY

Mr & Mrs Louie Cooper

Parkton Grove, Huddersfield

GREAT CRESTED NEWT (GCN) REPORT

Report Reference Number: FE642/GCN01

27th April 2026

Please note that the report is likely to be valid for a period of 4 years¹. Where specific protected species surveys are undertaken the validation period of these surveys differs and must be considered carefully when utilising the data present within this report. For example, bat nocturnal emergence surveys are likely to be valid for a period of two seasons (a season being May – September) to support a planning application though to apply for a European Protected Species Licence surveys must be up to date and should be conducted in the current or most recent optimal survey season.

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REV	Issue Status	Author or Reviewer	Name & Qualifications	Position	Date
-	Draft 1	Author	J. Lally MSc BSc	Ecologist	27.04.2026
		Reviewer	J. Eales BSc	Managing Director	27.04.2026

¹ [Great crested newts: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/great-crested-newts-advice-for-making-planning-decisions)

CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
2.0	METHODOLOGY.....	4
3.0	LEGISLATION.....	5
4.0	RESULTS	5
5.0	DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6

TABLES

Table 1: Waterbodies Identified Within 500m of the Application Site

Table 2: Description of Possible Results of GCN eDNA Analysis

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Habitat Suitability Index Assessment

Appendix B: eDNA Results

FIGURES

Figure 1: Waterbody and Watercourse Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Mr & Mrs Louis Cooper. It provides the results of Great Crested Newt assessments and eDNA surveys of waterbodies undertaken at Parkton Grove, Huddersfield (grid reference: SE 14155 12869).

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 1.2 The Site was c. 0.22ha in extent and located c. 3.7km from Huddersfield Town Centre.
- 1.3 The Site was comprised of broadleaved woodland, bramble scrub, a non-priority pond, a gravel driveway, a line of trees, ephemeral vegetation, and a number of individual trees.
- 1.4 The Site is surrounded by woodland to the north and south, with Hanging Stone Road present along the southern boundary of the Site. To the east lies Parkton Grove house and associated gardens, and to the west lies an area of greenspace, with grassland, trees and scrub present.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.5 The proposals include the creation of a new dwelling with associated gardens and landscaping.

BACKGROUND

- 1.6 The initial desk study identified:
- one waterbody present within the Site,
 - three watercourses within 500m of the Site boundary which were not given further consideration due to their flowing nature, making them unsuitable for breeding amphibians, and
 - one waterbody within 500m of the Site boundary, which was not given further consideration due to the A616 acting as a significant barrier between the waterbody and the Site, and the distance between the waterbody and the Site exceeding the routine migratory distance for Great Crested Newts.
- 1.7 See Figure 1 and the Table extract from the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report below for further details of waterbodies.

Table 1: Waterbodies identified within 500m of the application Site (refer to Figure 1)

Pond Ref.	Locality	Straight Line Distance / Direction. Distance via Optimal Connective Habitat in (m)	OS Grid Reference	Connectivity to Application Site
On-site pond P1	Located towards the center of the application Site.	On-site.	SE 14123 12890	On-site. Further consideration required.
River Holme	River flowing from south of the Site, parallel to it at the closest point and north-west downstream (semi-adjacent to the A616 road)	Straight line distance: 47.8m S Connective distance: N/A, A616 too large a road (barrier)	SE 14146 12811	The A616 presents a significant barrier to dispersal, acting as a barrier between the river and the Site. The river is also flowing, making it unsuitable for breeding amphibians. No further consideration.
Mag Brook	Brook that flows into the River Holme, south of the Site	Straight line distance: 316.37m S Connective distance: N/A, A616 too large a road (barrier)	SE 13985 12563	The A616 presents a significant barrier to dispersal, acting as a barrier between the brook and the Site. The brook is also flowing, making it unsuitable for breeding amphibians. No further consideration.
WB1	Oblong waterbody located adjacent to where the Mag brook joins the River Holme (to the south of the Site)	Straight line distance: 284.12m S Connective distance: N/A, A616 too large a road (barrier)	SE 13935 12582	The A616 presents a significant barrier to dispersal, acting as a barrier between the waterbody and the Site. The waterbody is also over 250m away from the Site boundary, which is longer than the routine migratory distance for Great Crested Newt ² . No further consideration.
WC1	Watercourse flowing through deciduous woodland and treelines, close by, to the east of Site	Straight line distance: 120.74m E Connective distance: >122m	SE 14248 12804	Connective distance within routine migratory distance for GCN, however, the watercourse is flowing, making it unsuitable for breeding amphibians. No further consideration.

² Franklin, P.S (1993) The migratory ecology and terrestrial habitat preferences of the great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve. M.Phil Thesis. De Montfort University. Dept of Applied Biology and Biotechnology.

2.0 **METHODOLOGY**

PERSONNEL

- 2.1 The eDNA survey was undertaken on the 16th of April 2026 by A. French & S. Kirshner who have extensive experience in undertaking eDNA sampling. A. French is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies for species surveys and is accredited to use a Natural England Class Licence for great crested newts (GCN) *Triturus cristatus* (2023-11247-CL08-GCN).
- 2.2 The Habitat Suitability Index Assessment (HSI) was undertaken on the 16th of January 2026 by J. Lally who has extensive experience in undertaking HSI assessments.

FIELD SURVEYS

Habitat Suitability Assessments

- 2.3 The on-site pond was evaluated using the HSI scoring system developed by Oldham *et al.* (2000)³ as part of the field surveys on the 16th of January 2026.
- 2.4 The scoring system produces a value of habitat suitability calculated from scores achieved under a variety of categories which include; the location within the UK, pond area, frequency of drying out, water quality, percentage shade, presence of waterfowl, presence of fish, number of other ponds within 1km, quality of surrounding terrestrial habitat, percentage coverage by macrophytes.
- 2.5 Pond suitability is then determined using the scale shown below in Table 1.

Table 1 – HSI Scores as a Measure of Pond Suitability

HSI Score	Pond Suitability
<0.5	Poor
0.5 – 0.59	Below average
0.6 – 0.69	Average
0.7 – 0.79	Good
>0.8	Excellent

Environmental DNA (eDNA)

- 2.6 GCN presence / absence surveys were undertaken using the environmental DNA method⁴. The assessment followed the methodology described in the Technical Advice Note for field and laboratory sampling of GCN environmental DNA, dated 30th September 2014⁵.

³ [Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the great crested newt \(*Triturus cristatus*\) | British Herpetological Society](#)

⁴ Biggs J, Ewald N, Valentini A, Gaboriaud C, Griffiths RA, Foster J, Wilkinson J, Arnett A, Williams P and Dunn F 2014. Analytical and methodological development for improved surveillance of the Great Crested Newt. Appendix 5. Technical advice note for field and laboratory sampling of great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) environmental DNA. Freshwater Habitats Trust, Oxford.

- 2.7 Samples were taken on 16th April 2026 by A. French, who is accredited to use a Natural England Class Licence for great crested newts (2023-11247-CL08-GCN) using sample kits obtained from ADAS Biotechnology.
- 2.8 The laboratory analysis, undertaken by ADAS Biotechnology, provides one of the following outcomes described in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Description of Possible Results of GCN eDNA Analysis

Result	Description
Positive	A positive result means that GCN are present in the water or have been present in the water in the recent past (eDNA degrades over around 7-21 days).
Negative	A negative result means that DNA from the GCN has not been detected in your sample.
Inconclusive	This occurs where the DNA from the GCN has not been detected but the controls have indicated that either: the sample has been degraded and/or the eDNA was not fully extracted (poor recovery); or the PCR inhibited in some way. This may be due to the water chemistry or may be due to the presence of high levels of sediment in samples which can interfere with the DNA extraction process.

SURVEY LIMITATIONS

- 2.9 No survey limitations are anticipated.

3.0 LEGISLATION

- 3.1 GCN are afforded legal protection under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (*as amended*) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (*as amended*). This legislation makes it illegal to: deliberately disturb a GCN, damage / destroy a breeding site or resting place of a GCN, recklessly or intentionally kill, injure or take a GCN, recklessly or intentionally damage or obstruct access to or destroy any place of shelter or protection, disturb a GCN whilst they are occupying such a place of shelter or protection.

4.0 RESULTS

Habitat Suitability Assessment (HSI)

- 4.1 Waterbody P1 was assessed as having below average suitability for GCN (Appendix A).

eDNA

- 4.2 The eDNA survey undertaken upon P1 confirmed that GCN are absent from this waterbody (see Appendix B).

Terrestrial Habitat


- 4.3 Some habitats on-site, such as woodland and bramble scrub, as well as a rubble pile, were considered to be optimal for providing commuting and shelter opportunities for GCN.

5.0 DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 GCN are confirmed to be absent from waterbody P1.

5.2 Furthermore, the majority of terrestrial habitats within the Site are of poor suitability for GCN. The areas which are suitable for GCN (woodland, bramble scrub, rubble pile) will be largely retained. Consequently, GCN are not considered to be a statutory constraint to the development.

APPENDIX A: HABITAT SUITABILITY INDEX ASSESSMENT

Waterbody Reference	SI -1	SI -2	SI -3	SI -4	SI -5	SI -6	SI -7	SI -8	SI -9	SI -10	HSI score	Pond Suitability	Predicted Presence	Pond Photographs
	Geographical Location	Pond Area	Pond Drying	Water Quality	Shade	Fowl	Fish	Ponds	Terrestrial Habitat	Macrophytes				
P1	1	0.1	0.1	0.33	1	1	1	0.96	1	1	0.56	Below average	0.2	

APPENDIX B: EDNA RESULTS

Client:
FE642, Abigail French, Futures Ecology
1040091-Futures-AF, FE642, version 1



RSK ADAS Ltd
Spring Lodge
172 Chester Road
Helsby
WA6 0AR

Tel: 01159 229249
Email: Helen.Rees@adas.co.uk

www.adas.uk

Sample ID: ADAS-11364

Client Identifier: P1

Grid references/coordinates: SE1411712902

Description: pond water samples in preservative

Condition on Receipt: Low Sediment

Date of Receipt : 21/04/2026

Volume: Passed

Determinant	Result	Method	Date of Analysis
Inhibition Control [†]	2 of 2	Real Time PCR	22/04/2026
Degradation Control [‡]	Within limits	Real Time PCR	22/04/2026
Great Crested Newt*	0 of 12 (negative)	Real Time PCR	22/04/2026
Negative PCR Control (Nuclease Free Water)	0 of 4	Real Time PCR	As above for GCN
Positive PCR Control (GCN DNA 10 ⁻⁴ ng/μL) [‡]	4 of 4	Real Time PCR	As above for GCN
Report Prepared by:	Dr Helen Rees	Report Issued by:	Dr Ben Maddison
Signed:		Signed:	
Position:	Director: Biotechnology	Position:	MD: Biotechnology
Date of preparation:	22/04/2026	Date of issue:	22/04/2026

eDNA analysis was carried out in accordance with the stipulated methodology found in the Technical Advice Note (WC1067 Appendix 5 Technical Advice Note) published by DEFRA and adopted by Natural England.

** If all PCR controls and extraction blanks give the expected results a sample is considered: negative for GCN if all of the replicates are negative; positive for GCN if one or more of the replicates are positive.*

[†] Recorded as the number of positive replicate reactions at expected C_t value. If the expected C_t value is not

[‡] No degradation is expected within time frame of kit preparation, sample collection and analysis.

[‡] Additional positive controls (10⁻¹, 10⁻², 10⁻³ ng/μL) are also routinely run, results not shown here.

