

By email only

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12 October 2020
Our reference: ECO2273b

Dear John,

Re: Great Crested Newt assessment, Jubilee Pond, Sherfield on Loddon

- 1.1 I am writing following the restoration of Jubilee Pond, Sherfield on Loddon.
- 1.2 The pond was desilted on 10th and 11th August 2020. Works were carried out under Natural England's licence WML-A29 –Science, Education & Conservation licence (reference 2019-43212-SCI-SCI) for works affecting great crested newts
- 1.3 During the desilting works an ecologist acting under the Natural England licence was present. They oversaw the excavator, looking for amphibians that might be present and moving them to a nearby safe place. The silt was deposited in the adjacent meadow so that any amphibians present within the silt could disperse.
- 1.4 No great crested newts were found during the works however three frogs were moved to the long grass approximately 20m from the pond.
- 1.5 It is understood that the pond now holds water and the project to date appears to have been a success.
- 1.6 It is likely that the works will benefit the local great crested newt population as long as no fish colonise the pond (this is unlikely as the pond dries out regularly) and the duck population is kept to a minimum (this can be achieved by discouraging the feeding of ducks).
- 1.7 In terms of aquatic vegetation establishment, it is our experience that a pond is naturally colonised by vegetation within the first year or so following pond restoration. In this case it is likely that the reedmace next to the dipping platform will recolonise the pond and this vegetation will also contain a seed that will provide a source of other aquatic and marginal plants.
- 1.8 It is not recommended that the pond is stocked with bought in plant material as there is a risk that this could contain invasive and non-native species of plants and animals which would be detrimental to the ecology of the pond.
- 1.9 I have submitted the licence return to Natural England
- 1.10 Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

