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Report for

Mallory Park, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire
Protected Species Survey

Date of Report – 12th September 2008

Proprietors

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Protected Species Survey at Mallory Park, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire

Address of Client: Mallory Park Circuit, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire

Name of Agent: Richard C. Hilliar, Property Management

Address Of Agent: The Coach House, New Inn, Nr Billesdon, Leicester LE7 9EL

Dates of Surveys: 5th & 12th September 2008

Weather Conditions: 100% cloud, rain, breezy, 13^0C

Address of survey site: Mallory Park Circuit, Kirkby Mallory, Leicestershire

Planning Application Number:

Grid Reference of survey site: SK 453004

Name of Surveyor: A.B.Gibney BSc (Hons), MIEEM

Licence Numbers: Great Crested Newt 20082074 & Bat 20073155 issued by Natural England

1) Background

1.1 Reason for survey

It is proposed to build an earth bund to reduce noise pollution, landscape the area adjacent to the motocross track, plus the track itself at some time in the future. A protected species (particularly Great Crested Newts) survey was requested as part of the Planning Permission conditions to carry on the development.

1.2 Description of site

The proposed site was disturbed ground, in the main bare earth. There were very few amphibian refugia present on the site, and very little vegetation. The area appeared to have been cleared of rocks and logs, presumably to make the site safe for the public and competitors. The proposed site was between the main race circuit track and mown amenity grassland. [Between Grid References SK 45740038 & SK 45280040, to the north of the site and SK 45049999 & SK45129995, to the south of the site]. There are no trees or shrubs affected by the proposed development, but there are two copses (with TPOs) adjacent to the proposed site. The area to be landscaped is to be sown with grass seed and then managed as mown amenity grassland, following the landscaping. In the future the

area may again be landscaped to provide extension to the motocross track. The existing motocross track is to remain.
There were several water bodies within 500m of the site, they were all large stocked fishing lakes, with ducks also being present, and would be unsuitable as breeding ponds for Great Crested Newts.

2) Survey Methods

2.1 Methods

The grounds were searched for signs of Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*), by searching under logs, rocks, slabs and any other appropriate refuges, and a note was made of any appropriate newt habitat types, also particular attention was paid to habitat type.

The lakes were also searched for any suitable newt habitat as it was not the correct time of year to search for adult newts, or their eggs and larvae.

The lakes were also assessed for their suitability as breeding ponds for Great Crested Newts.

A note was made of any signs of other protected species, or whether there was any appropriate habitat for other protected species.

3) Results

3.1 Great Crested Newt – No evidence of great crested newts was found, and there was no suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newts on the site.

3.2 The lakes are unlikely to be suitable as Great Crested Newt breeding sites (see Table 1 for SI survey of the lakes). The nearest lake was approximately 100m from the site with the race circuit between it and the proposed site. The other lakes were up to 400m from the proposed site.

3.3 There was no evidence of any other protected species on the site.

4) Conclusions

4.1 There was no suitable habitat for Great Crested Newts on the proposed site when the surveys were undertaken.

4.2 The future management of the landscaped area would not provide a suitable habitat for Great Crested Newts, as mown amenity grassland is considered to be of very low value as a habitat for newts (Great crested newt mitigation guidelines).

4.3 The Motocross circuit would remain an area of bare earth, due to its proposed usage and so would remain poor habitat for Great Crested Newts.

4.4 Should Great Crested Newts be breeding in any of the lakes, which is unlikely, the scale of impact by the proposed works would be low according to the Great crested newt mitigation guidelines, which are produced by Natural England, as the lake is more than 50m from the site and the proposal would entail temporary disturbance. (English Nature 2001).

4.5 There were no indications of any other protected species on the site.

5) Recommendations and Mitigations

- None necessary

References and Bibliography

Gent,T. & Gibson,S. [Eds] (2003) *Herpetofauna's Workers' Manual* JNCC

English Nature (2001) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines* English Nature

Langton, T., Beckett, C. & Foster, J. (2001) *Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*. Froglife, Halesworth

Heaton, A. (1998) *Rare Wildlife in Leicestershire and Rutland* Kairos Press

Betts, C.J. (2001) *Checklist of Protected British Species* Christopher Betts Environmental Biology

Oldman, R.S., Keeble, J., Swan, M.J.S., & Jeffcote, M. (2000) *Evaluating the suitability of habitat for the great crested newt* (*Triturus cristatus*) Herpetological Journal Vol 10, No. 4 pg. 143-157

Report Produced by

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Appendix 1: Photographs of Proposed Site



Site of proposed bund



Site of proposed bund



Site where landscaping and sowing with grass seed is proposed



Area already sown with grass seed



Existing motocross track



Area in centre of motocross track

Table 1. Habitat evaluation of waterbodies for great crested newt (Oldman *et al* 2000)

Survey Criteria	Optimal characteristics	Suitabilty Index (SI) of ponds. From tables etc in Herp. Journal				
		Lake 1	Lake 2	Lake 3	Lake 4	Lake 5
Location	(from map in Herp. Journal)	1	1	1	1	1
Pond Area	Measured in m^2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Pond Drying	Years out of ten that pond dries	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Water quality	Ranges from good, clear (SI value 1) to bad, turbid (SI value 0.01)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Shade	Estimate of % of perimeter of pond shaded	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Fowl	Number of waterfowl per pond per $1000m^2$	0	0	0	0	0
Fish	Fish may predate and consume eggs and larvae. Estimate	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0,01
Number of ponds	Within 1km of target site	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Terrestrial	From maps	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Macrophyte %	Estimate of pond vegetation	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5
Habitat Suitability Index per pond		0.43	0.43	0.43	0.44	0.44