

WILDLIFE SURVEY FOR GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

There is a pond which showed evidence of Great Crested Newt in close proximity to the landfall site field so it is likely that there are newts present within the field and at boundary lines (which they use to commute between habitats).

The fencing being used is for the purpose of a Great Crested Newt trapping and relocation programme. As Great Crested Newts are a European Protected Species, Scottish Power needs to ensure that they are not at risk of injury or disturbance as part of our construction works.

The fencing is installed and basically pens in any newts within this area.

The buckets are called pitfall traps and are buried into the ground.

When ready to begin trapping, the lids of the buckets will be removed. Newts are not likely to move across open field and are more inclined to follow the fence line where they will then fall into the pitfall traps which are located every 10m or so along the fence. A mammal ladder is also located within the trap so any small mammals (mice, voles, etc) that may happen to fall in can then escape the bucket easily. The trapping phase will continue for at least 30 straight days until there has been five days clear of any newt capture. The buckets will be checked every day by a qualified ecologist during this time, and any newts captured will be translocated into nearby suitable habitat outside the working corridor.

Figure 4: Fence and pitfall trap design

Temporary / Drift GCN Fence.

