

Note

**HaskoningDHV Nederland B.V.
Industry & Buildings**

Subject: Holyhead Waterfront Development - Great Crested Newt Pond Survey

1 Introduction

The two identified ponds within the Holyhead Waterfront Development study area were visited on the morning of Thursday 27th June with the intention to take water samples for eDNA analysis, in order to determine the presence or absence of great crested newts (GCN). The locations of the ponds are shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 Locations of ponds

1.1 Surveyors

The surveyors were:

- Richard Stocks, Senior Environmental Consultant, Royal HaskoningDHV. Registered to use Class Licence CL08 (Great Crested Newt Survey Level 1). Registration Number: 2016-22602-CLS-CLS

- Neil Chamberlain, Principal Coastal Engineer, Royal HaskoningDHV.

1.2 Conditions

Weather conditions during the survey were sunny with a light breeze. The temperature was approximately 21°C. There had been periods of rain during the preceding weeks.

2 Survey Results

2.1 Pond 1 (53°19'00.3"N 4°38'49.0"W; 53.316751, -4.646949)

Pond 1 was identified as a relatively large pond close to the marina shoreline and bounded by two streams discharging in the the Holyhead marina area.

The identified pond area was found to be dry and fully vegetated, suggesting that if a permanent pond has existed it has now silted up (Figure 2a). There was a wetter, unvegetated area under a mature sycamore at the western corner but no water was present (Figure 2b). It is likely that the area is subject to intermittent flooding following periods of rain but that any standing water is ephemeral and unlikely to persist long enough to support GCN breeding.



a)

b)

Figure 2 a) Pond 1 viewed from the western boundary looking east, and b) area under sycamore tree

2.2 Pond 2 (53°19'02.9"N 4°39'28.7"W; 53.317461, -4.657970)

Pond 2 was found to be dry (Figure 3). There was a clearly identifiable pond area under tree cover but any standing water is ephemeral and unlikely to persist long enough to support GCN breeding. There was no evidence of aquatic vegetation.



Figure 3 Pond 2

2.3 Area walkover

The opportunity was taken to walk over some of the area in between the ponds. The area was well drained and no additional ponds were identified, although it should be noted that it was not possible to survey the entire area.

3 Conclusion

No ponds with any standing water were identified by the survey and therefore no water samples were taken. Given there had been periods of rain in the preceding weeks it is thought to be unlikely that water persists at these locations for long enough for any GCN to breed successfully.