

BOW138 Llandinam 132Kv Pond Assessment, Glanmiheli, Glan-Mule, Powys

Great crested newt presence/absence surveys were undertaken by Bowland Ecology Ltd in March-June 2013 in relation to a proposed 132Kv overhead electricity line with wooden pole supports. The proposed new power line is located between Bryn Dadlau and Welshpool and is required to provide a connection to the Llandinam proposed wind farm. During the Inquiry process the Alliance drew attention to a possible additional un-surveyed pond which is situated within 250m of the proposed route corridor. The additional pond was suggested to be located within the grounds of the property Glanmiheli, Glan-Mule, Powys (NGR: SO 16118, 90118) and forms part of the watercourse 'Nant Meheli'. The aim of this submission is to provide an assessment of the pond with regards to its suitability to support great crested newts and the likely impact upon this species as a result of the proposed construction. An aerial photograph showing the location of the water body in relation to the route corridor is shown in Figure 1 within this report.

Habitat Suitability Assessment

The suggested location of the 'pond' appears to be an area of pooled water online with the watercourse running through the property.

A HSI assessment of the water body in question was undertaken using a modified version of the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) (after Oldham et al, 2000). HSI is used to assess the suitability of aquatic habitat for great crested newts. The HSI for great crested newts involves assessing ten factors that affect this species. Each of these factors is given a score between 0 and 1, these scores are placed in a formula to calculate the geometric mean, and this gives a score between 0 and 1. 0 indicates that the habitat is poor suitability for great crested newts and 1 represents optimal habitat. Any pond with a HSI score below 0.5 is considered to be poor in terms of suitability for great crested newts, whereas a score above 0.8 is considered to be excellent.

The HSI for the pond was found to be 0.47, which defines the pond as providing '**poor suitability**' of habitat for great crested newts.

Furthermore the pool is online with a flowing watercourse, making the habitat unsuitable for amphibian breeding. Taken together with the low HSI score it is considered that this feature is of negligible potential value for great crested newt breeding.

Furthermore potentially suitable habitat for amphibians, in this case woodland, within the route corridor within 250m of the pool will only be subject to arboriculture management works such as pruning/crown-lifting and no ground disturbance from construction will take place. The working areas which will facilitate the placement of the wooden poles will take place within agricultural land which is sub-optimal (low value) terrestrial habitat for amphibians.

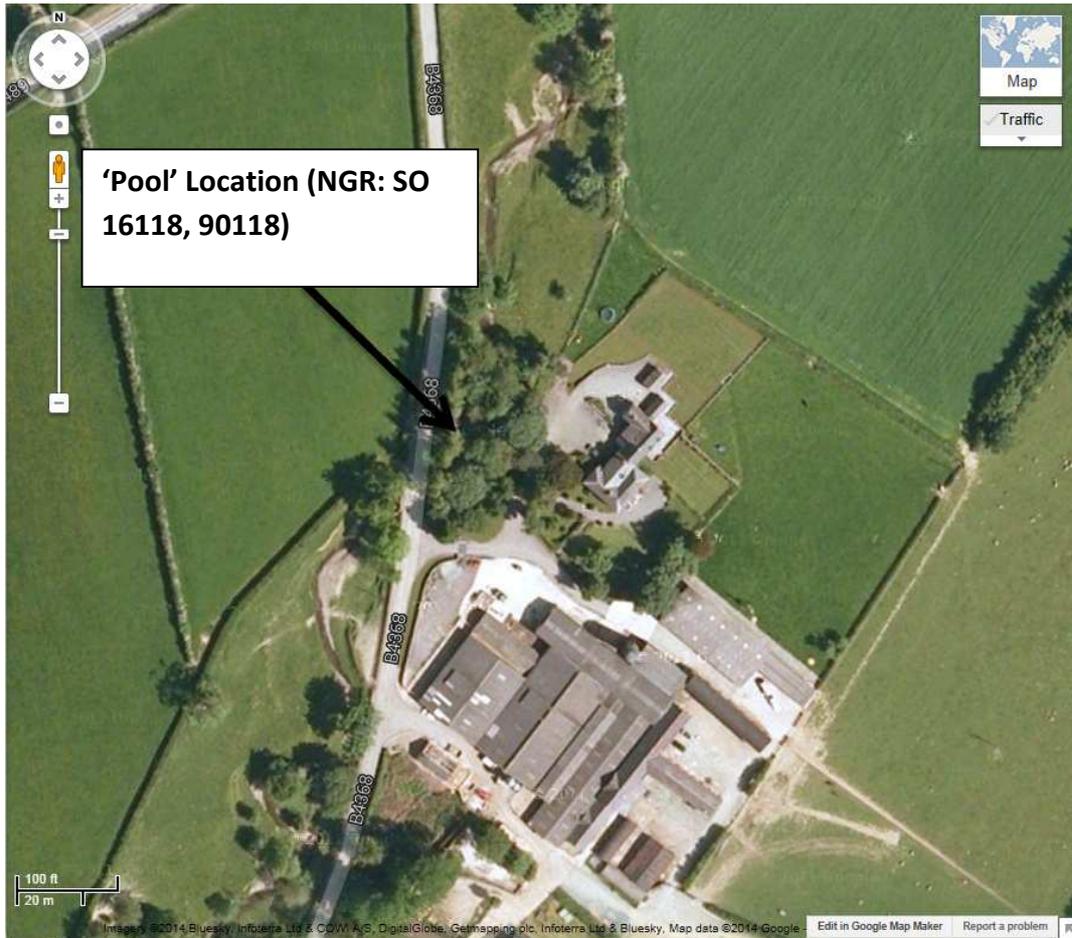


Figure 1: Location of the pond in relation to the proposed route corridor

Prepared by: Emma Kilduff, *Senior Ecologist*

14/02/2014

Checked by: Jeremy James, *Director*

14/02/2014