Title	**Proposed Office Building, Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre, Bettisfield, SY13 2LD – Great Crested Newt Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement**
Client	**Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre**
Date of Method Statement	**(Final Version) 18th September 2024**
Author	**Max Ellson**

1 Introduction

Method Statement

1.1 Marches Ecology was commissioned by Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre ('Taraloka') to produce a Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement to minimise/ avoid any impacts on Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) due to the proposed construction of an office building (and associated works) at Taraloka (approximate NGR 346815, 335764). This Method Statement will be provided as supporting information to a planning application.

1.2 A 'Walkover Survey & Biodiversity Statement'[1] is also to be submitted in support of the application. The walkover survey recommends that non-licensed RAMs should be implemented prior to and during the proposed construction works in accordance with a Method Statement. This RAMs Method Statement has been produced to guide this implementation.

1.3 The RAMs detailed in this Method Statement will be implemented throughout the proposed works and whenever any works that could harm individual Great Crested Newts or damage their habitat is undertaken. Such works would include the following:

- Implementation of the RAMs prior to and during initial site clearance.
- During the construction phase.
- Prior to and during construction of an associated pond, hibernaculum and dead hedge.

1.4 This document has been produced so that it may be 'standalone' and inform each of these work items as they arise. The RAMs detailed should be considered indicative and will be adapted to suit the works as they progress. As such it should be noted that not all of the RAMs detailed may be required in each instance.

1.5 It is understood that Great Crested Newts use two ponds located approximately 70 m and 95 m from the proposed office building (although breeding is not confirmed), and that terrestrial animals are seen on the Taraloka land-holding. However, the majority of the habitat to be impacted by the office building construction works (hard-standing) is of negligible potential value for Great Crested Newts.

1.6 Potential impacts would be short-term only, and at an individual animal scale (disturbance, injury/ killing); potential impact from loss of/ disturbance to habitats (which is negligible when taking into account potential habitat availability in the vicinity) is not deemed significant in the long-term. Potential direct impacts on terrestrial habitat of more than negligible potential value will be limited to:

[1] Marches Ecology (2024). *Proposed Office Building, Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre, Bettisfield, SY13 2LD – Walkover Survey & Biodiversity Statement.* Produced on behalf of Taraloka Buddhist Retreat Centre.

1) loss of some ornamental shrubs/ associated vegetation (moderate potential habitat at most) (associated with the construction of a 'new access drive'),

2) removal of the existing temporary office (may provide minimal opportunities itself and or associated with materials stored underneath it), and

3) loss of/ disturbance to a small area of infrequently managed short grassland located (associated with proposed pond construction).

It is also possible that some temporary disturbance during the construction could result to a low retaining wall which could also provide opportunities for Great Created Newts. Construction of the hibernacula/ dead hedge could result in temporary disturbance.

1.7 The overall risk to Great Created Newts/ their habitat is deemed to be low. Non-licensed RAMs are often implemented at sites where the risk to individual Great Crested Newts/ their habitat has been assessed as low or negligible. The proposed non-licensed RAMs are outlined and further to appropriate implementation will ensure as far as is reasonably possible that impacts on Great Crested Newts are minimised/ avoided.

1.8 It should be noted that following the RAMs outlined in this Method Statement does not waive or derogate any of the offences under the *Habitat Regulations* should an offence be committed. The aim of this Method Statement is to reduce the risk of an offence occurring to an 'acceptable' level by the implementation of reasonable steps.

1.9 The inherent risk (to the proposed works) with using such an approach would be that should a Great Crested Newt be found at any time during the works then they would need to immediately cease and are unlikely to be able to re-commence until a Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 'development' licence had been obtained.

1.10 It is possible that Grass Snakes (*Natrix helvetica*) and nesting birds could be found on the site, and are known from the area. While the main focus of this Method Statement is the Great Crested Newt, it also details RAMs for these species/ species group.

Biosecurity

1.11 Marches Ecology (2024, *op. cit.*) states that '*basic biosecurity measures should be implemented throughout the proposed work*' and are also of relevance to the Great Crested Newt RAMs. Appropriate biosecurity measures are provided in *Section 7*.

Project Background

1.12 The proposal includes for the construction of a new office building; this will be located on existing hard-standing, to be constructed on a brick plinth. Five car parking spaces will be provided as part of the scheme (partly within the footprint of the existing (temporary) office building, which will be removed). A short length of 'new access drive' will partly encroach into an existing narrow boundary zone of mature ornamental shrub planting.

1.13 A pond, hibernaculum and dead hedge are to be created on an area of infrequently managed grassland nearby.

2 Great Crested Newt Legislation

Summary

- **The Great Crested Newt is protected under the relevant law. The legislation applies to all life stages, including eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults.**
- **It is illegal to handle, injure/ kill and or disturb any Great Crested Newt. It is also illegal to damage or destroy Great Crested Newt habitat.**
- **Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5000 per offence and prison sentences of up to six months.**

2.1 This sub-section provides a brief summary of key legislation relevant to Great Crested Newts and is current at 28th August 2024. It should not be considered a comprehensive review and is not meant to be so. It is provided here for information only and is not intended to replace specialised legal advice. It does not replace the text of the legislation but summarises the salient points.

2.2 The UK exited the EU on 31st January 2020 followed by a transition period until the end of that year during which EU legislation and policy was followed[2]. '*EU legislation which applied directly or indirectly to the UK before 11.00 pm on 31st December 2020 has been retained in UK law as a form of domestic legislation known as 'retained EU legislation*'. This is set out in *Sections 2* and *3* of the *European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018'*[3].

2.3 Great Crested Newts are listed on *Schedule 5* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended)[4], and receive full protection under *Section 9*. The 1981 Act was amended by the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*[5] which further extends the protection. They are also listed as European Protected Species on *Schedule 2* of *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*[6] which gives it full protection under *Regulation 42(1)*. The legislation applies to all life stages of the Great Crested Newt, including eggs, larvae, juveniles and adults.

2.4 Under the above legislation it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure or take an individual of such a species;
- possess any part of such species either alive or dead;
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place or structure used by such species for shelter, rest, protection or breeding;
- disturb such a species whilst using any place of shelter or protection; or
- sell or attempt to sell any such species.

2.5 The Great Crested Newt is included on *Section 7* of the *Environment Act 2016*[7].

[2] https://cieem.net/referencing-environmental-eu-legislation-post-brexit/
[3] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eu-legislation-and-uk-law#:~:text=The%20UK%20is%20no%20longer,on%20legislation.gov.uk
[4] HMSO (1981). *The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. HMSO, London.
[5] HMSO (2000). *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. HMSO, London.
[6] HMSO (2017). *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*. HMSO, London.
[7] HMSO (2016). *The Environment Act (Wales) 2016*. HMSO, London.

3 Great Crested Newt Identification

Summary

- **GCNs are the largest of the three British species of newt; adult males can reach 15 cm in length, with females slightly larger at 18 cm (the photos/ pictures below are not life-size).**
- **The upper surface and flanks are black and warty, with a row of silver dots present along the side of the head and body.**
- **The belly is dark orange or yellow with a pattern of black blotches.**

3.1 This sub-section of the document is provided for reference in the event that any amphibians are found on site during the maintenance works. It will be discussed with all site staff and personnel associated with the project during toolbox talk(s). Identification of any newts that may be found is likely to require the confirmation of a suitably qualified ecologist.

3.2 Great Crested Newts are the largest of the three British species of newt; adult males can reach 15 cm in length, with females slightly larger at 18 cm. The upper surface and flanks are dark brown or black and distinctly warty, with a row of white/silver dots present along the side of the head and body. Males develop a characteristic jagged dorsal crest (which has a marked break where the tail joins the body) during the breeding season (although this lies flat when newts are on dry land). The belly is dark orange or yellow with a distinct pattern of black blotches. The throat is whitish and thickly spotted with brown/black.



Male Great Crested Newt on land (above) and female (below).





Underside of male Great Crested Newt.

3.3 The Great Crested Newt may be confused with the Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), although adults of this species are generally smaller (at 10-11 cm). In addition, although the male Smooth Newt develops a dorsal crest, this is unbroken from head to tail and is also undulating, as opposed to jagged. The male has brown/olive green or tan skin with black spots and the female a light brown colouration with darker spots or speckles. The belly of both the male and female is creamy yellow or orange, and the throat slightly lighter, both with dark spots or speckles.



Male Smooth Newts on land.

3.4 The third species of British newt is the Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*); Palmate Newt is not known to occur in the immediate area. It is slightly smaller than the Smooth Newt at 7-11 cm in length, although is superficially similar to the Smooth Newt. The two species can be difficult to distinguish, particular females. The male Palmate Newt has a much less developed dorsal crest (which is also straight edged as opposed to undulating) than a male Smooth Newt. The male Palmate has a 4-7 mm tail filament and black frills / well developed webbing on the hind feet. Typically, the throat of males and females is pure white/pinkish and very rarely spotted (in contrast to Smooth Newts).

4 Great Crested Newt Ecology

4.1 This sub-section of the document is provided as a brief introduction to the ecology of Great Crested Newts. It is not a substitute for detailed knowledge and experience of working with the species.

4.2 Great Crested Newts live both in water (aquatic habitat) and on land (terrestrial habitat). Aquatic habitat is required for breeding and feeding. Terrestrial habitat is required for foraging (for food) and for brumation during the winter. They can be present in their breeding waterbody between spring and autumn but individuals often spend less time than that in aquatic habitat. The remainder of the year is spent on land. Some adults will migrate back to their breeding waterbody as early as late January but most move later, in March. Adult newts generally leave the waterbody from late May onwards.

4.3 Adult females lay eggs individually on submerged plants and can lay 200 eggs in a season. Larvae hatch after about three weeks and take another two to three months to complete their development. While some juveniles leave the waterbody (usually from August onwards) in this first year (and spend the winter on land) some will over-winter in the waterbody.

4.4 Great Crested Newts overwinter often underground amongst tree roots, in mammal burrows, down the side of walls/ house foundations, in cellars, and beneath piles of stones/ logs, *etc*. Dormancy may last from October to February but they can be active during milder weather in this period. While on land and outside the winter period, Great Crested Newts require refuge from extremes of weather. During the day they will rest in dense vegetation, under refuges (logs, *etc*), or underground. They will emerge from these refuges at night to forage and or migrate.

5 Method Statement – Implementation of RAMs

Preparatory

5.1 This RAMs Method Statement will be discussed in detail with all personnel/ contractors involved with the proposed works before any works are carried out. This will take the form of a toolbox talk/ site meeting to be presented by the ecologist and will incorporate advice with regard to the identification features of Great Crested Newts and the procedure that should be followed if a Great Crested Newt is discovered during any works. This information will be incorporated into all subsequent site inductions for new personnel/ contractors.

5.2 Before any works commence a copy of this method statement will be issued to all site personnel/ contractors and a signed copy will be retained by the ecologist. The contact details of the ecologist responsible for implementing this RAMs Method Statement will be provided to all site personnel before the start of work. This method statement must be strictly adhered to by all site personnel/ contractors involved with the proposed works.

5.3 Should a Great Crested Newt be located during implementation of the RAMs then it would be moved away from the immediate work area by the ecologist and relocated for welfare reasons only to a suitable receptor site. All work would then be suspended until further notice and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) consulted. It is possible that in this instance or if a Great Crested Newt is found at any other time during the work, an NRW 'development' licence may be required in order to lawfully proceed. Work should not re-commence until the ecologist has provided such confirmation. Other amphibians that may be found during the implementation of the RAMs scheme would also be moved away from the immediate work area.

Timing/ Weather Conditions

5.4 Implementation of the Great Crested Newt RAMs should only be undertaken when the preceding and following night-time temperature does not fall below 5°C and the day-time temperature is warm.

Working Protocol – Office Construction & Associated Works

Controlled Vegetation Removal

5.5 Shrubs/ associated vegetation within the footprint of the works[8] will be initially cut down to approximately 10-15 cm above ground level using hand-held tools (*e.g*. strimmer, brush cutter, chainsaw). No wheeled/ tracked machinery should be utilised during this stage. Cut vegetation will subsequently be raked up (where appropriate using a spring-tined rake) and carried by hand, and/ or blown (using a back-mounted leaf blower) and either deposited outside the works area, or within a suitable storage container (*e.g.* skip) to be removed off site.

5.6 Further to the vegetation being cut down to approximately 10-15 cm above ground level a suitably licenced ecologist will then undertake a visual-/ hand-search. This search will concentrate in particular on any potential refugia such as the base of grass tussocks/ shrubs, in leaf litter *etc.* Any potential surface refugia that can be easily moved (such as rocks, wood, woody debris *etc.)* will also be removed from the area; otherwise this will be completed at a later stage.

[8] The removal of shrubs will be minimised to accommodate construction of the 'new access drive' only.

5.7 Further to this initial vegetation cut and hand-/ visual-search, any remaining vegetation (with the exception of woody stumps) will be cut to ground level, again using hand-held tools, and the arisings removed off site. This will ensure, as far as is reasonably practical, that the surface of these areas is unsuitable for Great Crested Newts.

Visual-/ hand-/ destructive-searches (including of potential hibernacula)

5.8 These searches should be completed immediately in advance of works being initiated to ensure no Great Crested Newts are present. Visual-/ hand-searches will be completed by the suitably licenced ecologist; these will focus on the footprint of the proposed works as well as any immediately adjacent areas that may be used for storage of materials, vehicles or machinery.

5.9 In addition, potential refugia/ hibernacula features, as well as any features exposed during vegetation clearance and which could not be moved by hand, will be subject to a destructive search by the suitably qualified ecologist. This process will also (as far as is reasonably possible) seek to identify and destructively search potential subterranean hibernacula (such as rabbit burrows, other small mammal holes, crevices *etc*.) which may conceal newts. Any shrub bases should be removed by way of a toothed bucket – shrub bases should be levered out, not scooped with the bucket, with the shrub base and resultant hole subsequently being searched by the ecologist. This process will be assisted by a mini digger or equivalent machine as required. Any removed features will be taken off site and stored appropriately (*e.g.* in a skip).

Removal of Existing Office Building & Associated Stored Materials

5.10 Removal of the existing office building/ associated stored materials will be supervised by the suitably licenced ecologist. The stored materials under the building should first be lifted (not dragged) out. The building itself should also be lifted vertically. The ground underneath the building will subsequently be subject to a visual/ hand-search by the ecologist. Any loose material will be removed and stored appropriately (*e.g.* in a skip).

Working Protocol – Pond Construction & Associated Works

5.11 The pond construction, and associated hibernaculum/ dead hedge should either be subject to RAMs/ supervision by a suitably licenced ecologist and/ or under a watching brief by site personnel. It is likely that the dead hedge could be completed under the latter approach. Prior to any machinery accessing the site for the pond/ hibernaculum construction works, the proposed access route for machinery should be assessed by the ecologist as to whether RAMs will be required to be implemented along its length.

5.12 Where deemed necessary by the ecologist, controlled vegetation removal (as outlined above) should be undertaken along the width of the access route, pond/ hibernaculum footprint and associated machine access areas/ soil storage areas *etc.*. This should be immediately followed by turf stripping, again to be supervised by the ecologist who will undertake appropriate visual/ hand-searches as it progresses. Further to this the works can be completed under a watching brief.

General

5.13 At times when there is less/ no risk to Great Crested Newts the ecologist will remain on stand-by (off-site) for the duration of the works; site contractors will be responsible for implementing a watching-brief. This will entail a brief visual search of the site each day prior

to any works being initiated. When stored materials/ machinery are moved, particular attention will be paid to determine if any amphibians are located underneath.

5.14 Should a newt be found during the work (and the ecologist is not present at the site) on-site contractors will halt all activity immediately, contact the ecologist and wait until the ecologist arrives to remove the newt to an appropriate location. If any newt is found during the work the ecologist should be called to confirm identification before any action is taken. If other amphibians such as Common Frog or Common Toad are found during work, and confidently identified, then on-site contractors can move it to an appropriate location (firstly making sure their hands are damp or they are wearing gloves). This could be in dense vegetation near one of the ponds located with the Taraloka land-holding.

5.15 As mentioned above, should a Great Crested Newt be found at any time, it is likely that work would not be able to re-commence until a 'development' licence had been obtained.

5.16 In addition to that outlined above, the following measures will be undertaken:

- The contractor's compound including all machinery, materials and other associated paraphernalia will be located on areas of hard-standing at all times;
- No machinery/ vehicles will access any area outside the works site to undertake work associated with the proposed office construction unless under supervision by the ecologist where necessary;
- Should any direct impacts to the low retaining wall be envisaged, the ecologist will be contacted in advance, prior to any works being undertaken, to determine the required course of action;
- Prior to leaving the site at the end of each day, all tools and other materials will be stored securely either off-site or located on hard-standing/ within secure facilities;
- Creating and retaining piles of rubble or other similar materials on site should be avoided. Such features would provide potential refugia for Great Crested Newts. All such materials must be removed from the site on the same day. Any spoil/ rubble or other loose material that may be stored on site overnight must be placed on plastic sheeting on top of a pallet (or similar) so that it is raised off the ground, or in a skip or (for example for building materials), in a shipping container;
- Any temporary soil mounds associated with the pond construction will be subject to compaction on creation. This will ensure, as far as is practicable, that the creation of potential refugia (*i.e.* formed by cracks/ un-compacted material) associated with the mounds is limited. The ecologist should be contacted prior to the dismantling of any such soil mounds. The ecologist will determine whether these structures should be destructively searched – this will largely depend on factors such as the size/ structure of the mounds, the duration they have been in situ, the time of year, and capture rates up to that point;
- Should any holes/ excavations be left on site overnight, such as service trenches, a suitable ramp (*e.g.,* plank of wood) will be placed, with a slope of no more than 45°, so as to provide newts with a means of escape. The hole would be subject to a visual search (for amphibians) in the morning by site personnel;
- Machinery and vehicles will be located on hard-standing overnight;

- Any servicing or repair of machinery or vehicles will be carried out on areas of hard-standing; and
- Refuelling of machinery or vehicles will also be carried out in accordance with the appropriate Environment Agency Guidance for Pollution Prevention and all other relevant pollution guidance.

Ecologist Contact Details

5.17 The ecologist overseeing this project is Max Ellson (Marches Ecology) who can be reached on 07950 220188. In the event that Max cannot be contacted, please contact Tom Knight on 07928 212545.

6 Method Statement (Other Species)

Grass Snake

6.1 The ecologist will under-take visual/ hand/ destructive searches for reptiles at the same time as that for Great Crested Newts. Should any reptiles be found, they would be moved to the same receptor site.

6.2 When the ecologist is not present on site, on-site contractors will maintain a watching brief (for reptiles) as detailed above.

6.3 Should a Grass Snake be found during the work (and the ecologist is not present at the site) on-site contractors will halt all activity immediately, contact the ecologist and wait until the ecologist arrives to remove the Grass Snake to the receptor site if this is deemed necessary. In the mean-time, an escape route should be provided to the work site boundary and the Grass Snake should be allowed to find its own way out.

6.4 Grass Snakes should not be picked up or handled if it can be avoided. It is acceptable to pick up a Grass Snake to move it out of a working area if no other options are practical. Care should be taken when handling reptiles. Please note that Grass Snakes can bite although this is harmless.

6.5 Do not re-start work in this area until the ecologist has confirmed that it is ok to do so.

Nesting Birds

6.6 Should site clearance/ construction works be undertaken during the bird nesting season (March to August inclusive), it is possible that some nesting birds may be present though this is considered to be a low risk. The destruction of any bird nests that are in use is illegal.

6.7 If site clearance/ construction is undertaken during the bird nesting season it will be necessary for a suitably qualified ecologist to check the zone of ornamental shrubs and the existing office building for nesting birds prior to the commencement of works. If any active nests are found at this time a buffer zone as detailed below would be provided.

6.8 Should any occupied nests be found during the construction phase when the ecologist is not present on the site, a buffer zone (determined on the basis of the species concerned and the location of the nest in the context of the surrounding vegetation, but no less than 5 m) would be retained until it can be ascertained that the chicks have left the nest. The buffer zone will be appropriately fenced and signed. It is likely that this would mean that the construction works would need to be delayed until the birds have fledged and moved away from the nest.

6.9 Do not re-start work in this area until the ecologist has confirmed that it is ok to do so.

7 Biosecurity Measures

Introduction

7.1 Biosecurity risks at the site include the potential for invasive non-native species (INNS)/ diseases to be transferred on/ off and within site. As Great Crested Newts and other amphibians are known to be present on the Taraloka land-holding, it will be important not to transfer amphibian diseases on/ off-site. Further to the appropriate implementation of the control measures this risk is likely to be deemed 'acceptable'.

7.2 The publication: Scottish Government (2010). *Biosecurity guidance for SEARS staff*. Revised October 2010; describes four levels of biosecurity control dependent on the perceived risk of the activity. The proposed works require Level 1 (Low Risk) biosecurity control as described in this guidance document and the general control measures detailed below are provided on this basis. The SEARS guidance is a useful source of general information on biosecurity.

7.3 This Method Statement will be issued to the Site Manager (or equivalent) and it will be discussed with all contractors/ sub-contractors as part of a tool-box talk/ site induction. It will also be made available on site at all times.

General Control Measures

7.4 To minimise the risk of spreading INNS/ diseases to/ from the site the Check-Clean-Dry mantra advised as part of the Stop the Spread campaign by the Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) should be adopted at all times:

1) **Check** your equipment including vehicles, clothing and boots and remove any plant or animal 'hitchhikers'.

2) **Clean** equipment including vehicles, clothing and boots thoroughly, remove all mud, leaves and plant debris. If it is not possible to clean on site, securely bag items and clean at a suitable location where risk of transfer of diseases is minimised. Wash vehicle tyres and wheel arches if muddy and park on hard-standing if possible.

3) **Dry** thoroughly any equipment or PPE that has been in freshwater or the marine environment; some INNS can live on damp items for weeks.

Control Measures for Cotoneaster

7.5 Prior to the start of any works at the site the Cotoneaster identified in the walkover survey (Marches Ecology 2024, *op. cit.*) should be carefully pulled or dug up so that all parts of the plant are removed. It should be temporarily placed in a suitable container/ bag. This material should then be deposited on site in a location that will not be subsequently disturbed, and left to rot down. Alternatively, this material could be chipped. All equipment, clothing and footwear used in this operation will be cleaned as detailed above.

Control Measures for Amphibian Diseases

7.6 The ARG UK Advice Note 4[9] provides further information on precautions to be taken to minimise the risk of spreading amphibian diseases. This Advice Note should be followed when undertaking any work at the site, or where amphibians may be handled.

[9] ARG UK (2017). *Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK – Advice Note 4: Amphibian Disease Precautions: A Guide for UK Fieldworkers*. Version 2, revised March 2017. Available at: https://www.arguk.org/info-advice/advice-notes/324-advice-note-4-amphibian-disease-precautions-a-guide-for-uk-fieldworkers-pdf-2

7.7 It is not currently anticipated that disinfection will be necessary. Should disinfection become necessary then the procedure provided in ARG-UK Advice Note 4 should be followed: Use a brush to scrub off any debris, plant fragments, mud *etc.* and rinse with water. Then disinfect using one of the following methods: 1) Soak/ wash in a bleach solution (diluted with water to produce a 4% solution) for 15 minutes; OR 2) Virkon (10 mg/ml, as per supplier's instructions) for 1 minute. Rinse with clean water and if possible, allow to dry.

7.8 Should any diseased amphibians be located or suspected, the RAMs scheme will be halted and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) (https://www.arc-trust.org/)/ NRW contacted for further advice. Works will only re-commence when it is confirmed that it is safe/ acceptable to do so.

Handling Amphibians

7.9 The following is a brief summary of biosecurity measures to be implemented when handling any amphibians. Further details are provided in the ARG UK Advice Note 4 which should be referred to for further information.

- Handle amphibians only when necessary.
- If handling amphibians, or if contact with pond water is necessary, wear powder-free disposable vinyl gloves which you rinse before contact with the amphibians. Use vinyl rather than latex or nitrile because the latter two may be harmful to amphibians.
- Use a fresh pair of gloves for each site (pond/ waterbody) visited.
- Ensure that all workers wash their hands thoroughly with soap or hand sanitising gel and water after each day/ before moving to another site.
- Wash all clothing on a 40ºC cycle with biological detergent, after exposure to amphibians or pond/ ditch water.
- Do not release amphibians anywhere except at the place of capture.

8 Signatories

I have read and understand the requirements of this method statement.

Print	Singed	Company	Date