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16th June 2026

Ref: DC/25/2087 Environmental DNA survey, Thakeham Tiles, Storrington.

To whom it may concern,

The Ecology Co-op undertook a series of eDNA surveys on ponds within 250m of Thakeham Tiles, Storrington to determine the likely presence/absence of great crested newts *Triturus Cristatus*. This assessment was undertaken with regards to a proposal for the erection of 108 new dwellings with associated landscaping and open space, as well as the formation of new access onto Rock Road.

A total of seven ponds were identified within 250m of the application site, three of which were subject to eDNA assessments in 2024. All ponds surveyed in 2024 returned negative eDNA results¹. Pond locations can be found in Figure 1 (Appendix 1).

Out of seven ponds, five were subject to eDNA assessments in May 2026, conducted by James Whitby, MSc, Associate member of the chartered institute for environmental and ecological management and great crested newt survey licence holder.

Pond 1, located in the north-eastern block of deciduous woodland (TQ 1045315073) was not subject to an eDNA survey in 2026 as it was completely dry at the time of survey. As the survey had followed a prolonged period of rain, it is likely that if the pond held water for extended periods of time during the newt breeding season, the pond would have had water at the time of survey.

All other ponds surveyed are located in Sandgate Park to the south of the development apart from pond seven, located roughly 120m south-west of the site's boundary. This pond could not be accessed at the time of survey due to it being on private land. However, pond seven and pond six are hydrologically and ecologically connected, with pond seven being upstream of pond six. As these ponds are

¹ The Ecology Co-op. 2024. *Thakeham Tiles, EcIA. REV02.*

hydrologically connected, it is likely that if newts were present in pond seven, this would extend a positive result to pond six.

All ponds returned a negative result, confirming that great crested newts are not present in any of the ponds located within 250m of the application site. While there are additional ponds located 250<500m of the site across Sangate Park, it is likely that if these support great crested newts, they would also be present in the ponds surveyed, forming part of a meta population. It is considered extremely unlikely that newts would be present in the outlier ponds and have commuted to the application site without utilising or being present in the ponds within 250m of the site. Full results from SureScreen can be found in Appendix 2.

As great crested newts have been confirmed as likely absent from the site, in this instance, no further mitigation or surveys are necessary. In the extremely unlikely event a great crested newt is found at any time during construction, works must come to a stop and a suitably qualified ecologist must be contacted.

If you have any queries about the findings of this assessment, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Whitby', with a stylized, cursive script.

James Whitby

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Level 1 great crested newt survey licence holder
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APPENDIX 1 – Figures

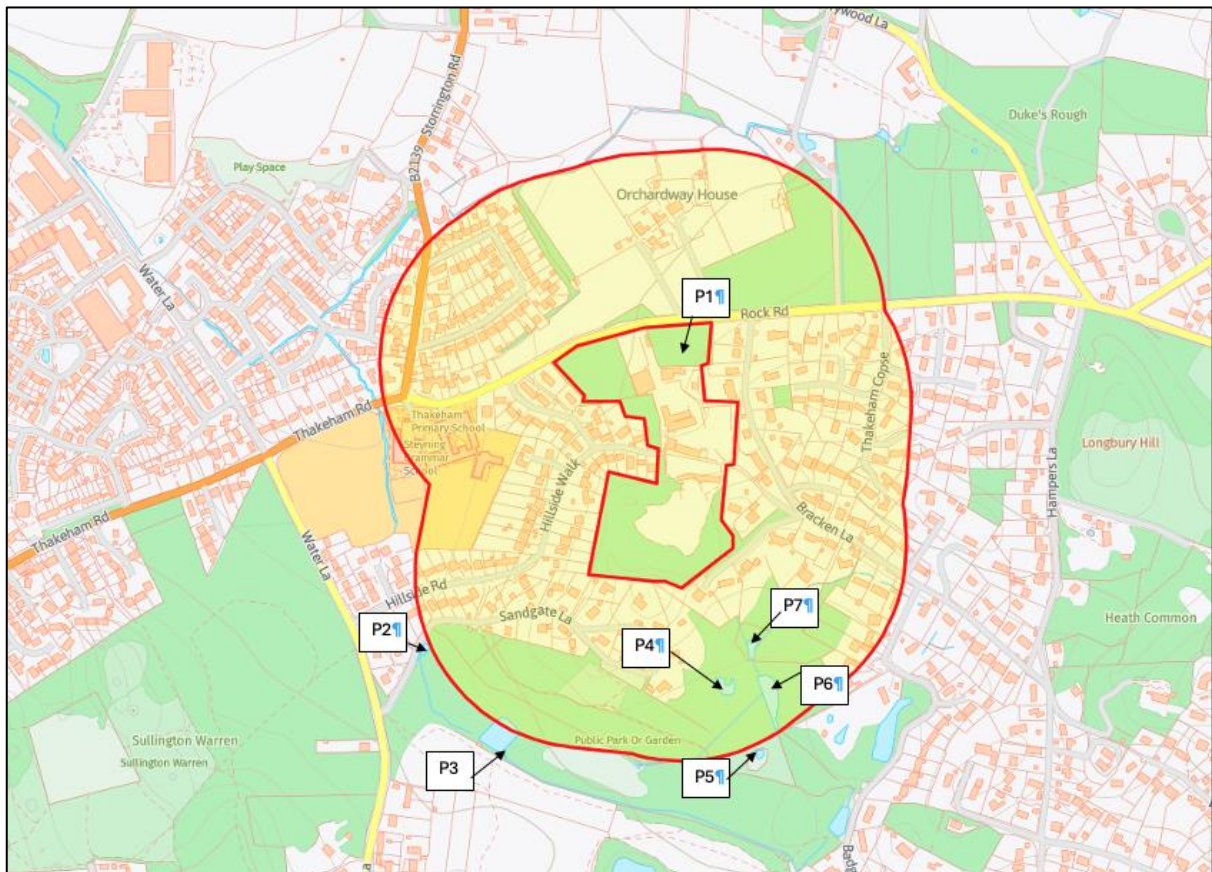


Figure 1. Aerial image showing the location of all seven ponds located within 250m of the application site.

APPENDIX 2 – Site Photographs

Results						
Lab ID	Site Name	OS Reference	Degradation Check	Inhibition Check	Result	Positive Replicates
GCN26 02207	Sandgate Park - Pond 2	TQ 10140 14486	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 02211	Sandgate Park - Pond 3	TQ 10535 14499	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 02218	Sandgate Park - Pond 1	TQ 10056 14612	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 02222	Sandgate Park - Pond 4	TQ 10542 14542	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12
GCN26 02224	Sandgate Park - Pond 5	TQ 10468 14570	Pass	Pass	Negative	0/12

Figure 2. Returned eDNA results for all ponds surveyed in 2026.