

Our Ref: 46404803

Date: 14th January 2013

To: Jenny Massingham (Celtique Energie)

From: Ele Cooper (URS)

Subject: **Woodbarn Farm (Previously Broadford Bridge and Willow-1) Great Crested Newt Grassland Management Plan.**

1. INTRODUCTION

URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (URS) have undertaken the ecological assessment of a proposed exploratory wellsite in Broadford Bridge West Sussex on behalf of Celtique Energie. The development is a temporary scheme which involves the construction of a gas and oil testing drilling rig and with associated access route, car park and bunds within an improved grassland field.

During the conducted protected species surveys a pond containing a low population of great crested newts was identified in an adjacent land parcel approximately, located 130m from the development site. The site itself was found to be of negligible potential for this species as heavily grazed improved grassland and therefore a precautionary habitat management plan was recommended to maintain the site as unsuitable for this species.

2. GREAT CRESTED NEWT GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

To prevent the site from becoming more suitable for great crested newts and therefore avoiding the risk of harm to this species during construction, operation and decommissioning phases, the grass sward height on the development site should be kept short (no higher than ~50mm). This can be achieved by maintaining the grazing regime of the site at its current intensity or, if this is not practical, a cutting regime should be put in place immediately after grazing ceases. The required frequency of cutting will be dependent on the speed of growth; however, during the peak grass growth period (May-August) the frequency of cutting necessary will be approximately every 2-3 weeks to maintain a short sward.

REFERENCES

English Nature (2001) Great crested newt mitigation guidelines. English Nature.