



Great Crested Newts & development

MKA Ecology Ltd has great experience in the building and construction sector particularly with Great Crested Newts, a European protected species. Our experienced members of staff are licensed to conduct appropriate surveys for the species. MKA Ecology also has considerable experience in gaining European Protected Species licenses for specific developments.



Great Crested Newt on a log in the new receptor area.

Case study: Anglian Water, Rutland Water

Rutland Water is one of Europe's largest man-made reservoirs and a Specially Protected Area (SPA) of international significance which requires increased extraction in line with a forecast increase in the demand for treated water. New wildfowl lagoons are required as an alternative wintering feeding habitat for wildfowl during periods of lowered water levels at Rutland Water. The proposed footprint of these new lagoons covered several farmland ponds.

MKA Ecology Ltd was commissioned to undertake surveys for Great Crested Newts within the footprint of the new conservation area and to carry out any necessary mitigation work.

Several Great Crested Newt breeding ponds were identified within the footprint of the proposed development as well as suitable terrestrial habitat surrounding these ponds.

To mitigate for the loss of these ponds and terrestrial habitat MKA Ecology Ltd designed and, together with the local Wildlife Trust, created a receptor site with aquatic and terrestrial habitat on the nearby Egleton Nature Reserve.

Following a successful European Protected Species licence application MKA Ecology Ltd began isolating and trapping the Great Crested Newts which were at risk from the development.

Our trapping success was very high with over 500 great crested newts being translocated from the development footprint to the newly created receptor site.



Searching for newts in the banks of a pond before draining and infilling.

Upon completion of the amphibian trapping all the ponds were drained and a fingertip search was undertaken to ensure that no individuals were overlooked. Each pond was then filled in to prevent any further amphibian colonisation before the lagoons were built.

MKA Ecology Ltd is carrying out monitoring at the Egleton Nature Reserve receptor site for several years to ensure that the species is thriving in the new habitat.