

## **Appendix 1. Great Crested Newt environmental DNA survey.**

### **Introduction**

It is considered that there is a low likelihood of GCN being present on the site. This is due to the lack of any previous records from the South Tees Development Corporation area and the lack of any recent records of Great Crested Newts (GCN) from within a 5km radius of the site, despite surveys of almost all suitable ponds in that area. As such it is considered that it was not necessary to undertake GCN surveys of the site in order to inform a planning application. Nevertheless as there was the opportunity to do so within the stipulated survey season, an environmental DNA (eDNA) survey was carried out in the standing waterbodies that had formed on the site (see Target Note 1 in the Main Report).

### **Methods**

Water samples were taken on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The samples were taken using the established methodology as set out in Biggs et al, (2014) with a total of 20 water samples being taken. The standing waterbodies were in close proximity to each other with no more than 50m between any two waterbodies and in most cases only a matter of a few metres separating them. They were therefore considered as effectively being one breeding area for any population of amphibians that might be present. Samples were therefore taken from the larger pond and the three largest, shallow pools with the resulting 20 samples being combined.

The results were sent off for analysis by SureScreen Scientifics, which is an accredited company for carrying out analysis of GCN eDNA.

### **Results**

The results were received from SureScreen Scientifics on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and were negative. The sample had passed each of the necessary quality checks therefore the result can be accepted as evidence of the absence of Great Crested Newts from these waterbodies.