

Mobuoy Road City Waste, Londonderry

784-B031879

Smooth Newt Survey Report 2026

MOBUOY-TTE-XX-XX-RP-Z-0016

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

June 2026

Document prepared on behalf of Tetra Tech Limited. Registered in England number: 01959704



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document:	Smooth Newt Survey Report 2026
Project:	Mobuoy Road City Waste, Londonderry
Client:	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Project Number:	784-B031879
File Origin:	\\lds-dc-vm-101\Data\Projects\784-B031879 Mobuoy City Waste Ecology\60 Project Output\63 Published\

Revision:	V1	Prepared by:	Senior Ecologist
Date:	19.06.2026	Checked by:	Principal Ecologist
Status:	First Issue	Approved By:	Associate Director
Description of revision: Draft issued to client and returned with minor comments. Report amended and issued as final V1 version.			

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GLOSSARY

Acronyms / Abbreviations	Definition
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
MCIEEM	Member of Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Contents	Summary
Site Location	The site is located at 60 Mobuoy Road, Londonderry, Co. Londonderry BT47 6UF and is centred at Irish National Grid Reference C 47863 17655.
Proposals	The proposals involve remediation of the site to improve land and water quality and prevent leachate entering the River Faughan. Site remediation works will potentially involve further ground investigation works, comprising bore holing and trial-pitting, and earthworks causing ground disturbance.
Scope of this Survey(s)	Smooth newts <i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i> are monitored annually at the Mobuoy site whilst remediation design is ongoing, using survey scope, effort and methods agreed with NIEA. Of the 39 waterbodies recorded on site, 16 contained water in 2026. The waterbodies are considered hydrologically linked, and the ephemeral habitats are connected, thus the smooth newts are considered a 'metapopulation' across the site. This report summarises historical survey data from the site, of relevance to smooth newts, details the findings of the 2026 survey effort and makes preliminary mitigation recommendations for this legally protected species.
Results and Evaluation	The 2026 survey effort confirmed smooth newt presence in 5 waterbodies on site. In total, 12 newts were observed.
Recommendations	Recommendations include: • Production of a Smooth Newt Management Plan, on confirmation of remediation strategy and planning submission date, informed by a suite of smooth newt surveys comprising four presence / absence surveys and two population estimate surveys. • Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) including measures to protect long-term viability of the newt population. • Habitat compensation and enhancement to improve terrestrial connectivity and / or the creation of additional breeding ponds and refugia should be designed into landscaping plans and included in future planning applications to allow for enhancements to be retained long term.
Conclusions	Provided the mitigation measures within this report are adhered to (including review of impacts, mitigation strategy and licensing requirement following detailed works plans), and a smooth newt management plan can be produced based on a full suite of smooth newt surveys, it is considered that the proposed works can be undertaken lawfully regarding smooth newts. Please note further consent / licenses will likely be required with regards to other environmental considerations and remain the client's responsibility to address. This report is valid until 28/04/2027 and it is recommended that newt surveys are initiated in March 2027.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tetra Tech Limited (hereafter referred to as Tetra Tech) was commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in April 2026 to undertake updated smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* presence / likely absence surveys at the site known as 'Mobuoy Road City Waste', referred to hereafter as 'the site'.

This report has been prepared by Senior Ecologist [REDACTED] MSc, BSc (Hons) and the conditions pertinent to it are provided at Appendix A.

Smooth newt is a legally protected species, full details of that protection, including types of offences, and policy position, are provided at Appendix B.

1.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 60 Mobuoy Road, approximately 2.6 km north-west of Derry City, County Londonderry and is centred at Irish National Grid Reference C 47863 17655 (see Figure 1).

The 46-ha site consists predominantly of, Northern Ireland Priority Habitat (NIEA 2024), wet woodland, interspersed with marshy grassland strips, scrub and other smaller patches of various habitat types (habitats of local importance, including poor semi-improved grassland, tall herb, and fen ruderal). The River Faughan and Tributaries Special Area of Conservation / Area of Special Scientific Interest (SAC / ASSI) are directly adjacent to the west boundary of the site.

Northern Ireland Priority Habitat, standing water, is present across the site. Three, large, freshwater lakes exist on-site, along with an extensive network of smaller ponds and waterbodies, fringed with marginal vegetation. The site is dynamic in nature, with ephemeral waterbodies experiencing fluctuations in water level depending on season and rainfall. Seven waterbodies are present year-round on site, 1, 13, 15, 23, 24, 25 and 26. The remaining waterbodies are ephemeral and their presence on site is weather dependant. Previous surveys on site recorded 27 waterbodies which are labelled as W1-27 within this and prior Tetra Tech reports. An additional 12 waterbodies were present on site during the 2025 smooth newt survey (Figure 2). In 2026, only 16 of the waterbodies contained water.

1.3 REMEDIATION PROPOSALS

The proposals involve remediation of the site to improve land and water quality and prevent leachate entering the River Faughan. Site remediation works will potentially involve further ground investigation works, comprising bore holing and trial-pitting, and earthworks causing ground disturbance. All waterbodies on site and associated terrestrial habitats are at risk of being impacted by the proposed remediation.

There is no current submission date for the planning application, thus NIEA have requested that the project is kept "live" so that all baseline ecology reports are in date. Reduced scope smooth newt surveys were agreed with Jon Lees Wildlife Officer NIEA via email on 11/04/2025 with the same method applied in

2026, on the understanding that a full suite of newt surveys is carried out, under licence, once a full remediation plan is determined and a planning submission date is confirmed.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide smooth newt presence / likely absence data in 2026.
- Review the predicted impacts on smooth newt and outline preliminary strategies to avoid / mitigate / compensate for any likely impacts on smooth newt as outlined in previous reports.

Scientific names are provided at the first mention of each species and common names (where appropriate) are then used throughout the rest of the report for ease of reading.

1.5 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

██████████ MSc, BSc (Hons), Senior Ecologist at Tetra Tech, has a BSc in Animal Behaviour and Biology from the University of Chester and an MSc in Ecological Management and Conservation Biology from Queen's University Belfast. ██████████ was in her fourth survey season of ecological fieldwork and smooth newt surveys, as a consultant, at the time of the survey. ██████████ combines rigorous data analysis with practical field experience to deliver evidence-based solutions that balance biodiversity conservation with project objectives.

██████████, MRes, BSc (Hons) is a Principal Ecologist and leads the Belfast ecology team in Tetra Tech. ██████████ has a BSc in Environmental Biology from QUB, a MRes in Ecology and Environmental Management from University of York, and PhD in fisheries management from QUB. ██████████ has over 12 years' experience as an Ecologist working in terrestrial, freshwater, marine ecology, and environmental management. ██████████ has extensive experience in designing and implementing protected species mitigation, has acted as an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) and has held licences for protected species mitigation. She is mentored by, and reports to, Regional Lead for Scotland and Ireland Associate Director ██████████

██████████ BSc (Hons) MCIEEM is an Associate Director at Tetra Tech Ltd. He is the regional lead of the Northern Ireland and Scottish Ecology team and is an active member of the Senior leadership within Tetra Tech's ecology group. ██████████ has more than 16 years' experience within ecological consultancy.

1.6 VALIDITY

The details of this report will remain valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the field survey (**April 2027**), after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. The recommendations within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the red line boundary or development proposals which this report was based on.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PREVIOUS SURVEYS

The following reports, previously produced for the site, were reviewed and are discussed as appropriate within this report:

- 784-B031879 Mobuoy Road City Waste: Ecological Appraisal (Tetra Tech, 2021)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy City Waste: Smooth Newt Report 2022 (Tetra Tech, 2023b)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy Road City Waste, Londonderry: Smooth Newt Survey Licence Return Report – Revision 2 (Tetra Tech, 2023c)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy City Waste: Smooth Newt Report 2023 (Tetra Tech, 2023a)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy City Waste: Smooth Newt Report 2024 (Tetra Tech, 2024a)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy Road City Waste, Londonderry: Smooth Newt Survey Licence Return Report (Tetra Tech, 2024b)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy Road City Waste, Londonderry: Smooth Newt Survey Licence Return Report (Tetra Tech, 2025)
- 784-B031879 Mobuoy City Waste: Smooth Newt Report 2025 (Tetra Tech, 2025)

2.2 FIELD SURVEYS

2.2.1 Biosecurity

All surveys were conducted in accordance with standard best practice (Tetra Tech, 2025).

2.2.2 Presence / Likely Absence Surveys 2026

The surveys were conducted, by the following Ecologists with appropriate experience and under the following survey Licensee Nos:

- [REDACTED] Senior Ecologist, NIEA Licencee No. [REDACTED], Licence No. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Principal Ecologist, NIEA Licencee No. [REDACTED], Licence No. [REDACTED]

The Ecologists were accompanied on site by [REDACTED] from NIEA's Mobuoy Remediation Project Team, who drove the Ecologists between waterbodies in an all-terrain vehicle. The locations of waterbodies present on site are included within Figure 2.

Each waterbody was surveyed twice within the smooth newt survey season (i.e. between mid-March and mid-June) (Gent & Gibson, 2003; NIEA, 2017). One survey took place during the day, using a net search, and once during the night using torchlight.

Given the proximity of the waterbodies, their hydrological connectivity, and ephemeral nature, all waterbodies are considered as one 'habitat' whereby newts are able and highly likely to move between waterbodies, subject to local conditions. The newt population is considered a 'metapopulation'.

Torchlight Survey

Torchlight surveys involved a visual search for individual newts in each waterbody. High-powered torches were used to search the waterbodies after nightfall. Waterbody perimeters were walked taking care to count all the individuals seen. When feasible, individuals were sexed as male, female, juvenile and unknown. To maximise the reliability of this technique, the torch survey was conducted on evenings where the air temperature exceeded 5 °C, when newts are generally considered being most active.

Net Search

Long-handled dip nets were used to sample the area around the waterbody's edge. The perimeter of the waterbody was walked, and 15 minutes of netting was undertaken per 50 metres of water's edge as per the method recommended in the Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2001), which is considered as standard guidance for smooth newts. Netting is a useful technique for augmenting other surveys and gauging presence / likely absence and is useful for finding smooth newt larvae during the late summer.

The dates of the surveys, weather conditions on the day and surveyors which undertook the surveys, are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

Survey No.	Surveyors	Date	Time		Air Temp. (°C)		Wind Speed	Cloud Cover (%)	Precipitation (%)
			Start	End	Initial	Final			
1 – Net Search	AF/SB	28.04.26	11:30	15:00	14	14	0 mph	10	0
2 – Torchlight Survey	AF/SB	28.04.26	20:53	23:35	13	13	0 mph	0	0

2.3 LIMITATIONS

Newt surveys typically involve four surveys to establish presence / likely absence, with waterbodies where newts are present surveyed two further times to estimate population size. The 2026 newt survey, on the Mobuoy site, was conducted to provide information on whether newts continue to be present on site and to give an indication of their distribution. The reduced survey effort was sufficient to confirm presence / absence of smooth newt on the site in 2026 but was not sufficient to estimate population size. A full suite of newt surveys will be required to inform a smooth newt management plan once the remediation design has been finalised.

Mobuoy is a dynamic site, with fluctuating water levels and numerous ephemeral ponds. This year (2026), a long period of dry weather, in the days leading up to the survey, had caused some ephemeral waterbodies to dry, particularly in tyre treads along the site access roads. Historically, the total of 39 waterbodies were present throughout the site at one time (named within this report as Waterbody (W) 1 – 39).

W13 had steep banks and was not safely accessible. W15 also had steep banks and dense vegetation prevented access. All other waterbodies were accessible.

23 waterbodies were dry at the time of survey (W3, W6, W7, W9, W10, W11, W16, W17, W18, W19, W20, W21, W22, W26, W27, W30, W32, W33, W34, W35, W37, W38 and W39) and thus not surveyed. While dry waterbodies may have been wet earlier in the season, spring drying ephemeral waterbodies are not suitable for breeding smooth newt, although newts may be present in them. 15 waterbodies contained water (W1, W2, W4, W5, W8, W9, W12, W14, W23, W24, W25, W28, W29, W31 and W36).

Of the waterbodies which were wet at the time of the survey, several were overgrown with bull rushes and contained limited areas of open water. This reduced visibility and made netting difficult. Turbidity was also an issue. The nature of the site meant that stretches of waterbody edges were inaccessible and could not be walked, for netting or torching, in a systematic way.

In this instance, the survey effort and limited accessibility is not considered a limitation to the results, given the objective was to confirm the continued presence of smooth newts within the site.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 PREVIOUS SURVEYS

2021

The 2021 Ecological Appraisal (Tetra Tech, 2021) found the site to be suitable to support smooth newt, due to the number of waterbodies present, and habitats suitable to support smooth newt in their terrestrial phase. Habitats included marshy grassland, scrub, woodland and several debris piles that provided additional refugia.

2022

Smooth newt surveys were undertaken in the 2022 survey season, comprising five survey visits within the active season, during which each waterbody was surveyed at least four times. Torch search, netting search and refugia search were used. Smooth newt was confirmed in 11 waterbodies on site (W3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 23). It was reasonably assumed that a regular interchange of smooth newts between waterbodies occurred (due to the proximity of the waterbodies) and as such a site wide peak count of 51 smooth newts was calculated for the metapopulation. Whilst population estimates can generally only be made following a minimum of six survey visits (Langton *et al.*, 2001), this maximum count was indicative of a 'medium' population of smooth newts (following the great crested newt population size class guidance of Langton *et al.*, 2001).

2023

In 2023 the survey was repeated and involved four survey visits in the active season using torch search, netting search, egg search and refugia search. Smooth newt was recorded in one waterbody (W23). Five females and four males (in total, over all four surveys) were documented in W23, a concrete lined wheel wash filled with rainwater. The peak count was eight newts, four males and four females. As above, population estimates can generally only be made following a minimum of six survey visits however the numbers were indicative of a 'small' population size (following the great crested newt population size class guidance of Langton *et al.*, 2001).

2024

In 2024 12 of the 27 waterbodies contained water, were accessible, and were surveyed in May. Waterbodies were surveyed once during the day using netting and once at night using torching. Smooth newts were recorded in two waterbodies (W5 and W23) during torching. The maximum count in W5 was three newts and the maximum count in W23 was six newts, therefore the maximum count of the metapopulation on the survey date was nine indicating a 'small' population size class (following the great crested newt population size class guidance of Langton *et al.*, 2001), however, this size class should be considered with caution, and as a minimum population size only, given the full survey methodology required for population assessment was not used in this instance.

2025

In 2025 there were 39 waterbodies onsite, 22 waterbodies had water and were surveyed (where accessible), once during the day using netting, and once at night using torching, in June to determine the presence / likely absence of smooth newt. Smooth newt was recorded in 12 waterbodies. Eight newts, and

one egg bundle, were recorded during the daytime netting survey, and 53 newts were recorded in the nighttime torch survey.

3.2 PRESENCE / LIKELY ABSENCE SURVEYS 2026

In total, 16 waterbodies contained water and were surveyed in April 2026, once during the day using netting, and once at night using torching. See *Section 2.3* limitations for details of waterbodies which were dry or inaccessible. Smooth newt was recorded in 5 waterbodies. The results are summarised in Table 2.

A total of 20 newts were recorded in the nighttime torch survey, and none were recorded during the daytime survey (Table 2). To avoid additional disturbance, no attempt was made to sex the newts. The numbers present are indicative of a 'medium' population size class (following the great crested newt population size class guidance of Langton *et al.*, 2001), however, this size class should be considered with caution, and as a minimum population size, given the full survey methodology required for population assessment was not used in this instance.

Photographs of a selection of waterbodies surveyed are provided at Appendix C. See Figure 2 for waterbody locations.

Table 2: Maximum Smooth Newt Count by Waterbody

Waterbody (W)	Netting (28/4/2026)	Torching (28/4/2026)
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	Dry	
4	0	0
5	0	2
6	Dry	
7-11	Dry	
12	0	4
13	Inaccessible	
14	0	1
15	Inaccessible	
16-22	Dry	
23	0	12
24	0	1
25	0	0
26	Dry	
27	Dry	
28	0	0
29	0	3
30	Dry	
31	0	0
32-35	Dry	
36	0	0
37-39	Dry	

Incidental recordings of other species were noted within several waterbodies, including frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and water beetles (*Coleoptera*).

4.0 DISCUSSION

The 2026 survey confirmed the continued presence of smooth newt on the Mobuoy site.

A comparison of the 2025 and 2026 survey results demonstrated considerable variation in the spatial distribution of the smooth newt records across the site. In 2025, smooth newts were captured during netting surveys within waterbodies 28, 30, 36 and 39, while torchlight surveys recorded individuals within waterbodies 21, 22, 34, 35, 37, 38, and 39. In contrast, the 2026 surveys recorded no individuals during netting, with smooth newts observed only during torchlight surveys within waterbodies 5, 12, 14, and 24.

The absence of repeat records within the waterbodies between survey years, together with the presence of records from different waterbodies across the site, indicates that smooth newts are utilising the whole site where waterbodies are available rather than being restricted to a small number of breeding grounds.

The survey findings support the conclusion that the site functions as an interconnected network of breeding and terrestrial habitats, allowing newts to move between waterbodies in response to changing environmental conditions throughout the breeding season.

It is not considered appropriate to use population size classes, nor compare population data between years given the variability in methodology across years, and the reduced survey effort.

A precautionary approach is recommended that assumes presence in all ponds previously found to contain smooth newt and extends any precautionary working measures (see Section 4.2.1, below) to all waterbodies and suitable terrestrial habitat on site.

A licence to conduct a complete newt population survey will be required in the year prior to remediation works commencing. If newts are present on site, a translocation licence from NIEA will be required to move newts from existing waterbodies on site to the ponds and hibernaculum that are proposed in the draft Remediation Strategy for the site.

Smooth newt can move up to 250 m from a breeding pond, any remediation work on or within 250 m of waterbodies will require supervision by an ECoW to monitor the area for smooth newt and prevent a breach in legislation through killing or injury.

4.1 IMPACTS

Vegetation clearance, hibernaculum clearance, and drainage and backfilling of some of the existing surface water ponds will be necessary to facilitate works outlined in the draft Remediation Strategy (Tetra Tech 2026). It is inevitable, and unavoidable, that smooth newt habitat will be lost during any remediation works and, without mitigation, there will be direct adverse impact on smooth newts through loss of habitat, severance of connectivity, killing and injury and disturbance (see Appendix B for detailed legislation).

4.1.1 Loss of Habitat and Connectivity

Drainage and backfilling of surface waterbodies is required to facilitate the remediation works. Without carefully designed mitigation this will reduce the available habitat resource and sever dispersal routes.

4.1.2 Killing and Injury

In the absence of mitigation, accidental killing and injury of smooth newts is possible via entrapment in excavations, as well as collision or crushing from vehicles and machinery on site.

4.2 MITIGATION

4.2.1 Newt Protection during Environmental Monitoring

Newts have been recorded in waterbodies which had formed in wheel ruts (for examples, see appendix C W5, W12 and W14). These waterbodies are ephemeral in nature, produced by heavy rainfall following a sustained period of dry weather and are not considered suitable for breeding. To reduce the risk of smooth newts being injured by vehicles traveling on the site, options available to mitigate this risk include

- **Option 1 - Avoidance** – During the breeding season (March – June), avoid disturbing water features that have formed in wheel ruts, and depressions, in the ground surface.
- **Option 2 - Mitigation** – Repair and maintain tracks within the site that are routinely used to access Environmental Monitoring Programme monitoring locations. If this option is selected, works should be scheduled outside of the smooth newt breeding season.

In addition to the options listed above, it is recommended that the smooth newt populations continue to be monitored in advance of any remediation works on the site and while NIEA continue to implement an Environmental Monitoring Programme at the site.

4.2.2 Newt Protection During the Construction Phase of any Remediation Works

To reduce the risk of smooth newts being harmed during remediation works at the site, the following recommendations are made -

- **A Smooth Newt Management Plan (SNMP) is produced for the site** – A SNMP details the mitigation measures required to protect smooth newts during construction works. The draft Remediation Strategy proposed dividing the site into separate zones, each zone requiring different approaches and containing different structures and features. There is an opportunity, if the draft Remediation Strategy (Tetra Tech 2026) is implemented, to create suitable habitat, within the site boundary, to act as receptor waterbodies and terrestrial habitat (translocation sites) during the site clearance and remediation works.

It is proposed that in Zone 9, in the northern section of the Campsie Sand and Gravel site, will contain newly created surface water attenuation ponds and the existing large pond will remain. With careful design these attenuation ponds and the retained large pond could act as receptor ponds during remediation works and provide long term habitat, post remediation, to support the newt population on site.

The use of the concrete lined wheel wash as a temporary receptor pond, during remediation, should be explored. This waterbody is in the centre of the site, and historically the largest numbers of newts have been recorded in it. The waterbody is enclosed by concrete walls on two sites and

newt fencing could be used to section off the waterbody, and some surrounding terrestrial habitat, to serve as a receptor pond whilst permanent receptors are constructed elsewhere on site.

- **A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is produced for the site** – A CEMP details the mitigation measures required to protect the wider environment and includes precautionary working methods to prevent a breach of legislation (see 4.2.2) and protect the long-term viability of the smooth newt population, and other wildlife, during construction works. A CEMP is expected to be required to support any planning application for remediation works at the site.
- **An ECoW is appointed during the detailed design and construction phases of the project** –
 - **Detailed Design Phase** – There are potential opportunities for smooth newt mitigation measures to be incorporated into the design for any remediation works at the site. For example, the newly constructed ponds that are proposed in Zone 9 could be designed to act as receptor ponds for smooth newts translocated in advance of remediation works in other Zones. ECoW oversight of any design work will allow potential smooth newt mitigation opportunities to be identified and considered further.
 - **Project Programming** – Without consideration for the sensitive points in the smooth newt life cycle and/or the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures in the project programme, there is potential for avoidable delays. ECoW oversight during the development of the Project Programme will allow construction works to be planned with consideration of the smooth newt life cycle.
 - **Construction Phase** – As smooth newts are highly mobile, it is recommended that an ECoW supervises site works during sensitive periods (e.g. newt aquatic phase March – June), under the appropriate licence from NIEA. The ECoW will monitor the implementation of the CEMP and the SNMP and provide immediate advice to contractors on site.

4.2.3 Licensing

If loss of a breeding waterbody is proposed, any newts present will require translocation under licence. Licences are granted by the NIEA Wildlife Team and may require artificial pond creation (depending on the scale of impact of the project) as part of the compensation and enhancement.

4.2.4 Precautionary Working Measures

Appropriate reasonable avoidance measures for smooth newts, in line with the Optimal Remediation Strategy (Tetra Tech 2026) are included in Table 3 below, it is recommended that these measures are implemented as part of the SNMP and included in CEMP.

Table 3. Suggestions for Reasonable Avoidance Measures for Works with the Potential to Affect Smooth Newts

Project Element	Suggestions for Avoidance Measures
Location & Layout	- The receptor habitat and ponds should be in an area least likely to be impacted by ongoing remediation work. Potential to use the current wheel wash (W23) for temporary habitat if appropriate to the design. - Final habitat design layout should include soft landscaping close to ponds.
Timing, duration & supervision	- NIEA should be consulted, early in the process, to agree appropriate scheduling of licences to translocate smooth newts from the surface water ponds. Licences are typically issued between 15th March and 15th June. - NIEA will require a receptor pond, with appropriate terrestrial habitat and hibernacula be created ahead of issuing licences for the translocation of smooth newts. Ideally this pond should be given time to establish ahead of initial site works commencing. - An ECoW should provide supervision of vegetation clearance throughout the site to avoid accidental killing or injury of hibernating smooth newts.
Construction methods and special precautions	- Backfill trenches and other excavations before nightfall or leave a ramp to allow newts to easily exit. - Raise stored materials (that might act as temporary resting places) off the ground, e.g. on pallets. - Should any pipelines be planned for installation on site, use directional drilling to cross areas of core habitat and dispersal routes. - Avoid installing structures that act as barriers close to ponds or include gaps at ground level where walls or fences are unavoidable.

Note: where a smooth newt is discovered during works completed under precautionary working measures, the works must cease immediately, and advice sought from Ecologist / NIEA Wildlife Team.

4.3 ENHANCEMENT

The final project design should enhance the site for smooth newts where possible. Enhancement should be designed into any subsequent planning application, following the remediation of the site, and be retained post construction. Methods to enhance the site for smooth newts include habitat management to increase connectivity between waterbodies and suitable terrestrial habitat, additional pond creation and creation of refugia for hibernating and sheltering individuals.

Refugia can usually be created using site won materials such as retained brash from vegetation cutting or inert hardcore from site clearance, however any works with materials recovered on this site must only be completed in accordance with the site's CEMP / biosecurity procedure and with consideration for the ongoing remediation works and possible contaminants.

5.0 CONCLUSION

Provided the mitigation measures within this report are adhered to (including review of impacts, mitigation strategy and licensing requirement following detailed works plans), and a Smooth Newt Management Plan can be produced based on a full suite of smooth newt surveys, it is considered that the proposed works can be undertaken lawfully with regards to smooth newts.

Please note further consents / licenses will likely be required with regards to other environmental considerations and remain the client's responsibility to address.

6.0 REFERENCES

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FIGURES

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2 – Waterbody Location Plan and Survey Results



Site Location Plan

Mobuoy City Waste



DAERA

Legend

Site Boundary

Notes:

Drawn by: [REDACTED]

Figure No. 1

Checked by: [REDACTED]

Revision No. A

12 June 2025

0 75 150 225 300 Meters
Scale 1:6,000 @A3

TM75 Irish Grid
NGR: 247758E 417922N

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Registered in England
number: 01959704



Smooth Newt Survey Results

Mobuoy City Waste



DAERA

Legend

- Site boundary
- Waterbody
- Smooth newts present
- Smooth newts absent
- Waterbody dry
- Waterbody inaccessible

Notes:

Drawn by: [Redacted]
Checked by: [Redacted]

Figure No. 2
Revision No. A

0 75 150 225 300 Meters
Scale 1:6,000 @A3

07 May 2026
NGR: 247759E 417922N

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: REPORT CONDITIONS

This Report has been prepared using reasonable skill and care for the sole benefit of Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) (“the Client”) for the proposed uses stated in the report by Tetra Tech Limited (“Tetra Tech”). Tetra Tech exclude all liability for any other uses and to any other party. The report must not be relied on or reproduced in whole or in part by any other party without the copyright holder’s permission.

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The report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections'. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times. No investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather-related conditions. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions. The “shelf life” of the Report will be determined by a number of factors including; its original purpose, the Client’s instructions, passage of time, advances in technology and techniques, changes in legislation etc. and therefore may require future re-assessment.

The whole of the report must be read as other sections of the report may contain information which puts into context the findings in any executive summary.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. Tetra Tech accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors.

APPENDIX B: LEGISLATION & POLICY

Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)

The smooth or common newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris* formerly *Triturus vulgaris*) is the only species of newt found in Northern Ireland. They are protected under Article 10 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended). It is an offence to:

- intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take a newt; or
- intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy, or obstruct access to, any structure or place that newts use for shelter or protection; or
- intentionally or recklessly damages or destroys anything which conceals or protects any such structure; or
- intentionally or recklessly disturbs a newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection

Planning Policy

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) (2015) furthers the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment in its Programme for Government to preserve and improve the built and natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity. Under the SPPS, Planning Policy Statements are retained policy which provide the operational policy to assess proposals against. PPS 2 Natural Heritage (DOE, 2013) sets out the Department's planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of natural heritage, defined as "the diversity of our habitats, species, landscapes, and earth science features". In addition, it outlines the criteria that local councils and the Department for Infrastructure (DOE Planning) employs when processing planning applications which might affect nature conservation interests and to which developers should have regard when preparing proposals. Policy within PPS 2 that is applicable to smooth newt is:

Policy NH 2 Species Protected by Law (whereby planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that is not likely to harm a European or statutorily protected species).

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAP) identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

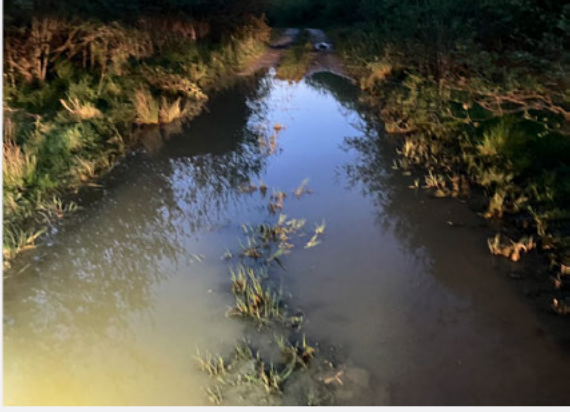
Some LBAP's may also include Habitat Action Plans (HAP) and/or Species Action Plans (SAP), which are used to guide and inform the local decision-making process.

The LBAP for Derry City and Strabane District Council has been superseded by a Green Infrastructure Plan, the key aims of which are to:

- Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of Green Infrastructure.
- Integrate Green Infrastructure principles into policy and decision making.
- Protect, improve, and increase Green Infrastructure through good design, planning and asset management.

Deliver Green Infrastructure's full potential for people and place, developing economic prosperity, biodiversity and responding to climate change.

APPENDIX C: PHOTOGRAPHS

Waterbody No. (W)	Photographs of accessible and wet waterbodies
W2	
W4	
W5	



W12



W14



W23



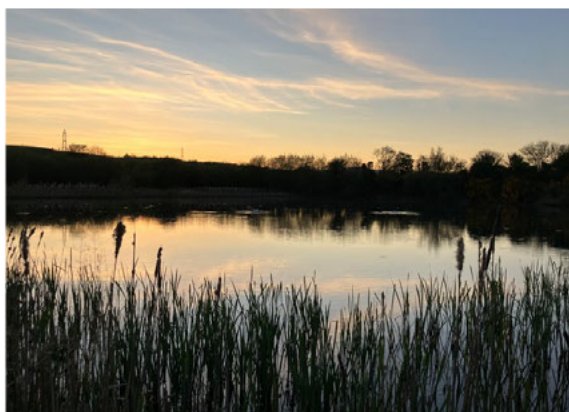


W24





W25



W26



W28



W29



W31



W36

