

## Mitigation strategies and licensing

### Great crested newt (GCN) method statement

If we have recorded great crested newts on your site, or they are likely to be present, you will usually have to submit a method statement to the Local Planning Authority as part of your planning application.

The method statement demonstrates how you will ensure no GCN will be affected by the proposed development, and how you will secure a licence from Natural England, Natural Resources Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage once planning permission has been granted.

Our licensed GCN ecologists are experienced at developing mitigation strategies that not only ensure the safety of GCN on site, but work with your construction timings and development proposals.

### European Protected Species (EPS) mitigation licence

If your development has the potential to harm or disturb great crested newts, the works must be carried out under a EPS mitigation licence issued by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage.

The EPS licensing process can be a confusing and time-consuming one. At UES, we have experience of many successful EPS licence applications, ranging from a small population of GCN that required installation of amphibian fencing only (no trapping), to a large population of GCN that required the translocation of 550 newts and five years of monitoring surveys.

We can provide advice on whether or not you will need to apply for a licence and what information will be needed if so.

EPS mitigation licences are separate to planning permission and we can apply for a licence once you have secured planning permission (or any other relevant consents).

### Capture and translocation

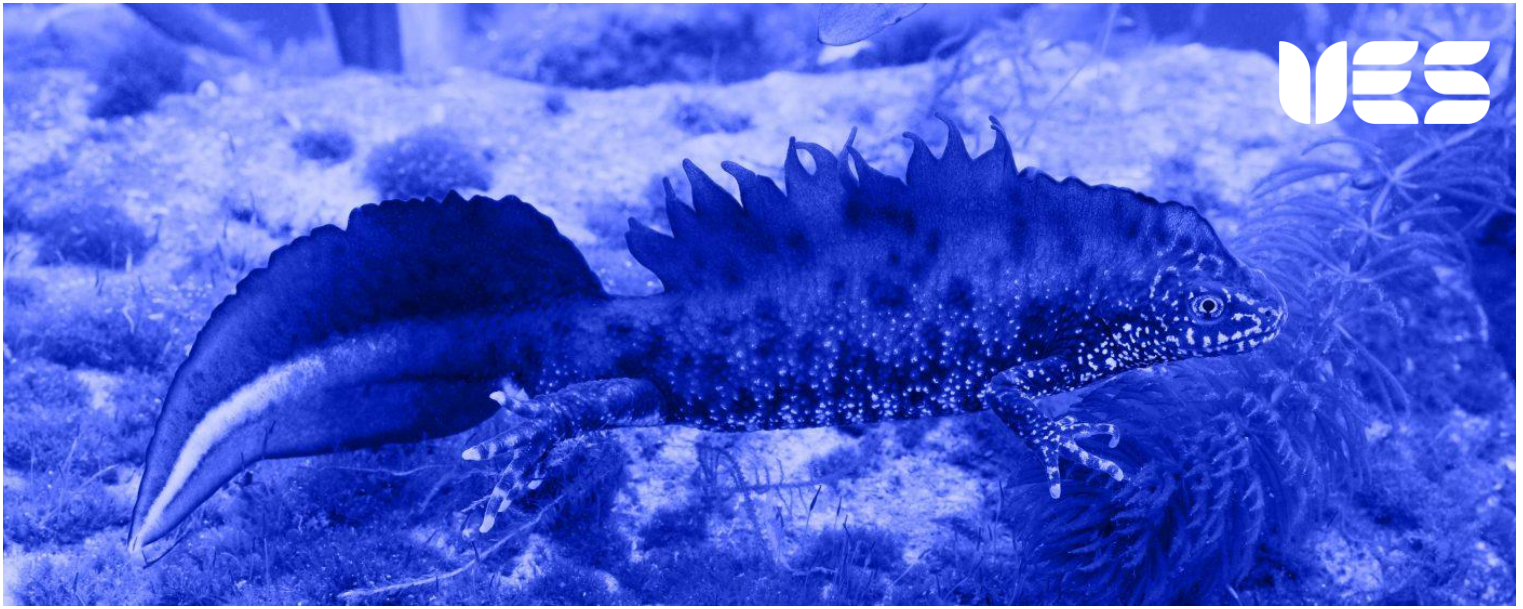
Capture and translocation is the process of installing amphibian fencing around a site and placing pitfall traps within the enclosed area, which allows you to capture the amphibians on site and translocate them to a safe receptor site.

Translocation can be a long and expensive process, requiring a licensed GCN ecologist to be present on site for at least 30 days. However, UES have secured a number of EPS mitigation licenses, without the need for capture and translocation.

UES work with specialist contractors to install amphibian fencing and pitfall traps that meet the requirements of your EPS mitigation licence.

### Ecological clerk of works (ECoW)

Once you are ready to start on site, you will need an ecological clerk of works to ensure your EPS licence is fully implemented, and that no GCN are harmed throughout the development.



Your ECoW will usually carry out an ecological toolbox talk to contractors, hand searches and soft demolition of refugia, supervision during vegetation clearance and amphibian fencing installation, pitfall trapping, and translocation of amphibians off-site. Our licensed GCN surveyors are legally allowed to disturb and handle great crested newts.