



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Via email only:

Our ref: RFI 5826
Date: 04/10/2013

Dear

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: . RFI 5826- Rhydymwyn– Great Crested Newts & NEWW

Please see the response below which provides clarification to your question dated 25/09/2013.

Q: *Why is the Wetland not managed for the Great Crested Newt as per the EU Habitats Directive, Art 10, 14, 12,*

Site management at Rhydymwyn is carried out in accordance with the aims of the Habitats Directive, i.e. to maintain or restore at favourable conservation status natural habitats and species of European interest, which includes the Great Crested Newt.

The wetland is managed to be of value to all wildlife that may use the wetland pond and area, including the Great Crested Newt. Although the wetland is managed due to its ecological value as an important feature of the landscape, it will also function as a stepping stone for wildlife movement from place to place. In so doing, these actions will prevent the deterioration or destruction of a site known to be used by Great Crested Newts. Any works that are carried out on the wetland are always undertaken after giving full consideration to the presence of Great Crested Newts, ensuring that all necessary licences are in place and that works are timed to take place at appropriate time of year.

The issue with the vegetation (Typha) becoming dominant in the wetland is a situation addressed through herbicidal and mechanical means and although it will take a few years of work to keep on top of the problem we are confident that it will be controlled. Once controlled, it will require an annual scheme of works to maintain keeping the Typha from becoming dominant. The actions as stated above, ensure compliance with Articles 10 and 12.

Article 14 does not appear to be of relevance for the management of a known Great Crested Newt site, as this deals with regulations required to prevent access, taking, hunting, etc and the establishment of a licensing system.

North East Wales Wildlife staff are usually present on site and would be content to deal with any. If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us.

Yours

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