

**11.1 Explanation as to why the derogation sought is the only available option for works and no suitable alternative exists as per Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.**

Natterjack toads are endangered in Ireland and the numbers breeding in the wild is not sufficient to maintain the population. Fota are working with NPWS under an MoU to provide captive rearing facilities and expertise to boost the wild breeding.

**11.2 Evidence that actions permitted by a derogation will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species to which the Habitats Directive relates at a favourable conservation status in their natural range as is required under Section 54(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.**

The captive rearing programme being run by Fota is enhancing the breeding success of natterjack toads annually. All metamorphs are returned to the wild within the toad's natural range.

**11.3 Details of any mitigation measures planned for the species affected by the derogation at the location, along with evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere.**

Fota have developed a very successful captive rearing system with high success rate. Strong biosecurity measures are in place. Over 10,000 tadpoles/eggs have been successfully reared to date and resulting metamorphs have been successfully return to the wild.

**11.4 As much information as possible to allow a decision to be made on this application.**

These captive rearing operations are covered under a joint MoU between NPWS and Fota.