

Section E: Supporting Documents

Introduction

Fota Wildlife Park staff will receive spawn strings as handed over by NPWS staff, they will incubate the spawn and rear the toadlets in the parks specially designed facility.

Background

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.

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.

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.

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

