



DeltaSimons

# Grads on the Ground

Becky Hodgins &  
Iain Turner  
Graduate Ecologists



"Hi, Grads on the Ground **Becky Hodgins** and **Iain Turner** here. We are both graduate ecologists based in Lincoln. We're currently working together on a project in Corby, Northamptonshire, where we've been monitoring great crested newt (GCN) populations across almost 50 ponds on a vast development site. It has its challenges; the terrain can be tricky, the ponds can be difficult to find and the weather here seems to change every 30 seconds!

We set crayfish traps out in the evening and when it gets dark, we venture out with our torches and count how many GCN we can see. We then take the traps out and once all of the GCN's have been counted, we release them back into the pond. Our highest count in a single pond, now named 'party pond', was over 80 GNC's in one night!"



## From Becky Hodgins:

"Coming into my second year at Delta Simons, I feel like I have the best job in the world. In this time I have been involved in many projects including bats, great crested newts (GCN), badgers, water voles, reptiles, birds, habitat and flora surveys.

The best part of this project is getting to work with some amazing ecologists within our team who I don't usually see, Iain Turner has kept me sane and has been a great asset to this project. We have had some great laughs together and it makes you realise what a great team we have here. Hopefully I have made my team manager, Jennifer Britt proud!"

## From Iain Turner:

"It's been just over 3 months since my career at Delta-Simons began and like Becky, there is nothing I haven't been involved with. During this project I've been partnered with an awesome group of colleagues who are always looking out for each other - a big shout goes out to Becky, who has led the boots on the ground team here brilliantly!

These site experiences so far have led to a greater understanding of the flora and fauna I work with. I feel valued within the team as even though I am relatively new, I have been entrusted with organising my team members for a few site visits. I'm really looking forward to the upcoming projects and surveys and of course, meeting more of the Delta-Simons team!"