

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Great Crested Newts



DID YOU KNOW?

Great Crested Newts are the biggest and rarest newt species found in the UK and have been around for approximately 40 million years.

Great crested newts and their habitats are protected by law. Any works involving newts must be done so under a relevant licence and overseen by a suitably qualified Ecologist.

IDENTIFICATION

- During the breeding season males develop a jagged crest which has a break at the base of the tail and females take on a 'bulky' appearance.
- Adults up to 15 cm in length.
- Skin is black or dark brown and has a rough, 'warty' appearance.
- Underside is bright orange with irregular black blotches.
- Males have a crest along their backs which is more pronounced during the breeding season.
- Males have a white flash on the tail and females a yellow/orange one.

WHERE CAN THEY BE FOUND?

Favour large ponds with abundant weeds and no fish. They are active at night, spending the day at the bottom of ponds or in vegetation. Feed mainly on invertebrates and tadpoles.

DO'S & DON'TS

- ✓ Report any damage to newt fencing to site management
- ✓ If you think that you have seen a great crested newt then stop work and report this to site management
- ✓ Keep a careful look out when moving logs, stones or rubble or clearing a site near to ponds as these are favourite habitats for great crested newts
- ✗ Try to touch or otherwise disturb any great crested newts you come across
- ✗ Move log piles or rubble on site if great crested newts are present.



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