

GREAT CRESTED NEWTS



Great crested newts breed in lowland ponds and occasionally lakes and slow-flowing ditches across England and Wales. This species spends most of its life within suitable terrestrial habitat, which would include rank grassland, woodland and scattered scrub, and the terrestrial habitat is therefore as important as suitable aquatic habitat.

Great crested newts travel up to 500m from their natal pond within the terrestrial environment although the majority of the population remains typically within 250m from the natal pond. Therefore, suitable habitat within 250m of a known natal pond (which is not separated from the pond by large roads or areas of unsuitable habitat) may be considered a place of shelter for this species. Any disturbance or destruction of habitat within this distance is likely to require surveys and potentially, mitigation.

Individual and District Level Licenses may be granted to permit otherwise unlawful activities but can only be given for certain purposes. Natural England issues licenses for scientific, educational and conservation purposes, which would include surveys of potential development sites. Natural England also issue site-specific licenses for the purposes of '*preserving public health or safety or imperative reasons of over-riding public interest*' (including development). However, a licence cannot be granted unless it can be shown the action permitted will not have '*a detrimental effect on the favourable conservation status of great crested newts*'.

Our Ecologists can provide:

- ✓ **Habitat Suitability Indexes & Impact Assessments**
- ✓ **Surveys (including eDNA) to determine the presence/likely absence of great crested newts**
- ✓ **Great crested newt population size class assessment**
- ✓ **Natural England European Protected Species disturbance licence applications**
- ✓ **Mitigation and compensation strategy, and implementation**
- ✓ **Consultation with stakeholders and interested parties**
- ✓ **Population monitoring**
- ✓ **Management plans for great crested newt habitat**
- ✓ **Report production to support planning applications and Environmental Statements**



Our Ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of protected species and development control, and hold Natural England licenses to survey for great crested newts. They are also members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct. By consulting with us at the early stages of your project we are able to identify potential constraints and assist in resolving any potential conflicts between development and this protected species.

Please refer to our survey calendar for optimal time periods for surveys. However, if the timing falls out of the survey period please get in touch, as surveys and inspections could possibly still be carried out in a bid not to hold up development.



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