

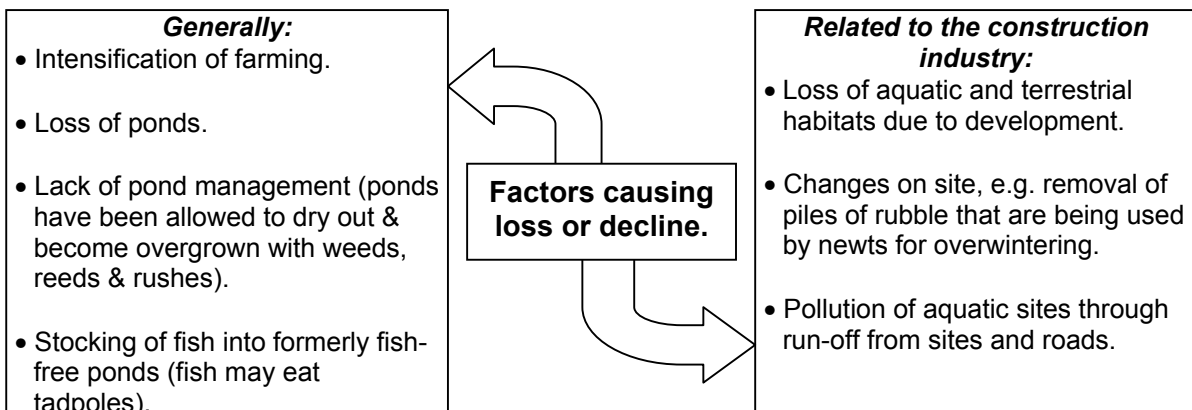
Carillion plc Environmental Tool Box Talk – Pg 1



The identification of Great Crested Newts in the UK.



	<p style="text-align: center;">Introduction</p> <p>The great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) is one of three species of newt in the UK. It is the biggest of the newts but also the rarest. It is found all over the UK (see right) but has a population of only 360,000, which has been declining rapidly over the past thirty years. This is despite conservation programmes that have been unable to counteract the threats to their habitat.</p>	
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Legislation

Great crested newts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. To reflect the importance of the British population in European terms they are also protected under the Conservation Regulations 1994. In addition, a national biodiversity action plan has been written for the great crested newt. A fine may be imposed of £5000 per newt casualty as a result of not taking reasonable care.

Together these laws make it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure, trade or capture a great crested newt.
- intentionally disturb great crested newts.
- damage, destroy or obstruct habitats where they live or breed.

IMPORTANT: Protection applies to all stages of the life cycle: adults, eggs, tadpoles & juveniles. If you suspect that there are newts on or within 500 metres of a site stop work immediately and contact the Site Environmental Co-ordinator or Advisor.

Contacts

Site Environmental Co-ordinator or Environmental Advisor.

English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA (Tel 01733 455000)

Countryside Council for Wales, Plas Penrhos, Fford Penrhos, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 5LQ (Tel 01284 370444)

Scottish National Heritage, 12 Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AS (Tel 0131 47774784)

Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), Environment Services, Commonwealth House, 35 Castle Street, Belfast, BT1 1GH (Tel 028 9025 4754)

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Environmental Tool Box Talk – Pg 2**



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Description

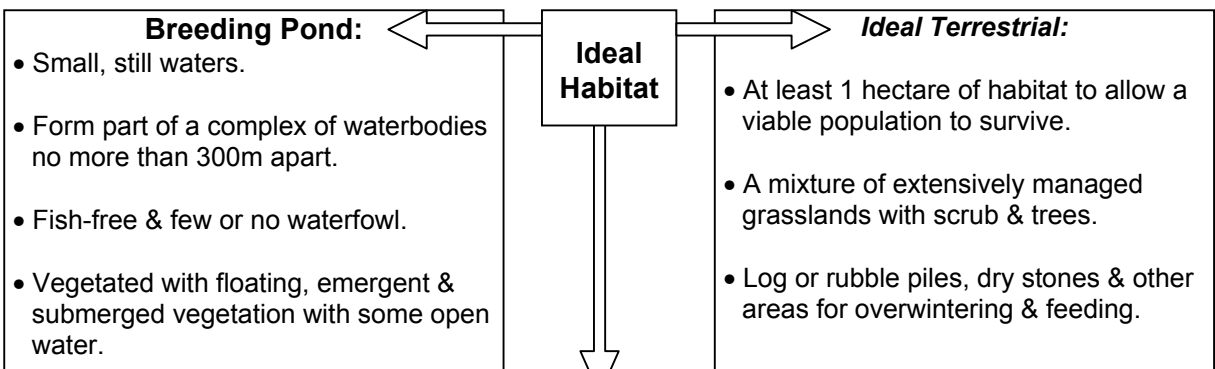
- Grows to approx. 17cm (just under 7 inches)
- Rough, granular skin.
- Back & flanks are a black-brown background colouration with darker spots.
- Vivid orange or yellow belly with an irregular pattern of black spots or blotches.

Male:

- Jagged crest that dips at the rear of the abdomen & a smoother edged crest above & below the tail.
- White, silver or grey stripe running from the tail tip and fading as reaches the abdomen.

Female:

- Does NOT have a crest.
- Yellow-orange stripe running along the lower edge of the tail.



This may be there ideal habitat but they can adapt to other areas if it has a combination of wet and dry areas.
Always be aware of the possibility of newts living nearby!

Life Cycle

Adult great crested newts leave overwintering sites in late spring & migrate to the breeding site. After breeding, adults leave the water in July/August to feed on land. About 3-4 months after hatching, juvenile newts emerge from the breeding pond. In Autumn the adults migrate to an overwintering site which is often a log pile, tree roots or in a dry stone wall.

