

ENVIRONMENTAL TBT

61 Newts

What: The Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) is the largest and the rarest of the 3 species of newts found in the UK. There are now thought to be only 360,000 left and, despite conservation programmes, its numbers have been declining rapidly over the past thirty years due to loss of habitat.

Great Crested Newts and their habitats are protected by law.



Identification

- Grows to around 170mm (almost 7 inches) in length with a rough, granular skin
- Back and flanks are brownish black with darker spots.
- Vivid orange or yellow belly has an irregular pattern of black spots or blotches

Male

- Jagged crest on the back with a smoother edged crest above and below the tail.
- White, silver or grey stripe running from the tail tip, fading as it reaches the abdomen

Female:

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

Suitable Habitat:

- Ponds and very slow moving watercourses.
- Woodland, scrub, hedgerows, rough grass land and derelict sites surrounding ponds and watercourses.

DO

- ✓ Stop work in the immediate area and contact an ecologist for further instruction if you think you have identified Great Crested Newts on your site
- ✓ Watch out when moving logs, stones or rubble. These are favourite habitats for Great Crested Newts
- ✓ Store Materials on hard standing areas. If required to store on grassed areas, ensure checks are made before placing and removing. Avoid breaking ground

DON'T

- ✗ DON'T try to touch or otherwise disturb any Great Crested Newt
- ✗ Do not clear vegetation
- ✗ Do not break ground within unmade ground