

## GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

The Great Crested Newt is the largest and the rarest of the 3 species of newts found in the UK. Their numbers have been declining rapidly over the past thirty years due to loss of habitat.

They live in ponds and very slow moving watercourses but are also found in woodland, scrub, hedgerows, rough grass land and derelict sites surrounding ponds and watercourses.

**It is an offence to:**

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture, trade or even to disturb a Great Crested Newt.
- Damage, destroy or obstruct habitats where Great Crested Newts live or breed.

Prosecution could lead to a fine of up to £5000 per newt affected and in some cases up to 6 months imprisonment.

They grow 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. Males have jagged crest on the back with a smoother edged crest above and below the tail and white, silver or grey stripe running from the tail tip, fading as it reaches the abdomen. Females do NOT have a crest and have a yellow-orange stripe running along the lower edge of the tail.

**DO**

- ✓ **STOP WORK** in the immediate area and contact your manager for instruction if you think you have identified Great Crested Newts on your site.
- ✓ Watch out when moving logs, stones or rubble or clearing the site near to ponds. These are favourite habitats for Great Crested Newts.



**DON'T**

**✗ DON'T** try to touch or otherwise disturb any Great Crested Newt.

