

# TOOLBOX TALKS



## GREAT CRESTED 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.



### WHY?

#### AVOID PROSECUTION:

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.



## IDENTIFICATION



Grows to around 170mm 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.

#### SUITABLE HABITAT

Ponds and very slow moving watercourses.

Woodland, scrub, hedgerows, rough grass land and derelict sites surrounding ponds and watercourses.

#### 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.

### 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.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT **YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT**