

Great Crested Newt Survey Information

Survey Methodology

Habitat Assessment

An initial habitat assessment may be carried out in order to establish the potential presence of great crested newts within a pond or other waterbody. This may involve using the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI). The HSI provides a score that is used to assess the potential for a waterbody to support breeding great crested newts. This habitat assessment would determine the likelihood of great crested newts being present and affected by the proposed works.

If there is the potential for great crested newts to be present a full amphibian survey would be required to determine the presence or presumed absence of this legally protected species.



Full Amphibian Survey

To determine the presence or presumed absence of great crested newts within a waterbody the standard survey methodologies include torch surveying, bottle-trapping, netting and egg searching (as detailed below). It may also be necessary to survey other ponds within 500m of the site in order to establish a population estimate. Due to the legal protection afforded to great crested newts, surveys must be carried out by Natural England licensed surveyors.

Torch-Light Survey

Searching a pond shortly after dusk using high powered torches can reveal the presence of amphibians in the torch beam.

Bottle Trapping

Bottle trapping involves submerging plastic bottle-traps into the pond in the early evening. During the night the newts swim into the bottle-traps and are unable to escape. This is followed by an early morning visit to collect the traps when all newts are recorded and then released.



Egg Searching & Netting

Egg searching involves a methodical search of the marginal vegetation looking for rolled leaves that may house newt eggs. Amphibians can also be caught by searching the margins of a pond with a pond net.



Survey Times

Natural England specifies a minimum of four survey visits must be made, and six if great crested newts are present, in order to establish a population estimate. Surveys should normally be carried out in the period of **mid-March to mid-June**, with at least half of the visits in the period mid-April to mid-May.

The survey methodology requires late night surveys using bright torches. Therefore it is important to inform local landowners and residents of the surveys and the likely presence of our surveyors during the spring period.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
		Full Survey									
Habitat Assessments (HSI)											

Great Crested Newt Development Licence

If the works are considered likely to cause harm or disturbance to great crested newts or their habitat, a European Protected Species (EPS) license is likely to be required. The EPS licence application requires the production of a method statement, completion of an EPS Application Form and the completion of a reasoned statement in support of the application. The method statement will require site specific mitigation.

Mitigation

For a licence to be granted, design of detailed mitigation is necessary which will reduce the chances of harming great crested newts during development works and to ensure provision for this species is provided on completion of the scheme.

Further information on mitigation methods is available on our website at www.emec-ecology.co.uk.



EMEC Ecology
The Old Ragged School
Brook Street
Nottingham, NG1 1EA

Tel: 0115 964 4828

Fax: 0115 964 4829

mail@emec-ecology.co.uk

