

## What are local authorities and other organisations doing?

- The Great Crested Newt is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Wildlife Trust for Cambridgeshire, English Nature, and Environment Agency monitor planning applications to identify threats to known or potential Great Crested newt sites.
- The Wildlife Trust manages a nature reserve specifically for Great Crested Newts.
- English Nature provides advice to local authorities and developers when Great Crested newts are threatened by development.
- Cambridgeshire County Council and the Wildlife Trust provide advice on pond creation and management.
- Cambridgeshire County Council have undertaken a Pond Survey in some South Cambridgeshire villages in 1999.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Wren Recycling have got together to set up a pond restoration grant for neglected ponds.
- In Peterborough, The Wildlife Trust has surveyed all the clay ponds in the district and provides advice on ponds creation and management to Peterborough City Council and other landowners.

## Leaflets: all are free, but please send an SAE

- Conservation Volunteer leaflet
- Garden Pond creation poster/leaflet
- Great Crested Newt booklet

## Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

## Great Crested Newt Records

Have you seen Great Crested Newts in Cambridgeshire?

Date seen: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of location: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this Order Form/Report to:*  
Sharon Hearle, Cambridge Green Belt Project  
3B Langford Arch, London Road, Sawston  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 4EE  
Tel. 01223 712410; Fax. 01223 712412 or

Rachel Price, The Wildlife Trust  
Environment and Energy Centre, 33a Westgate  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 1PU  
Tel. 01733 890419

Produced jointly by Cambridge Green Belt Project and The Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity partnership.

Grant aided by



# Great Crested Newts!

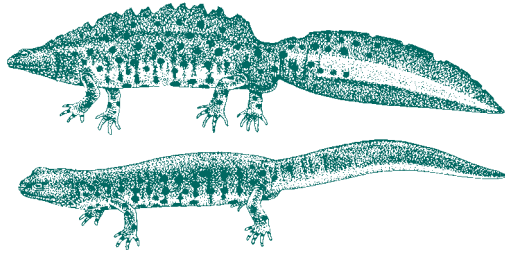


Can you help this amazing amphibian survive in Cambridgeshire's ponds?

# The Great Crested Newt

This is the largest of our three native newts, growing to about 15cm long (a Common Newt is only 2/3 this size). Great Crested Newts are dark, often black, patterned with small white spots and orange bellies. Males develop a high serrated crest during the breeding season and have a white flash running along their tails.

male & female  
Great Crested Newts



male & female  
Common Newts

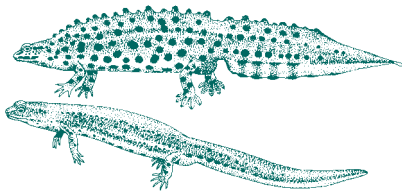


Illustration © English Nature 1994

Great Crested Newts may be found throughout Cambridgeshire but are most frequent on clay soils, which includes the southwest part of Peterborough, most of Huntingdon District, the clay area of South and East Cambridgeshire, and a few fen islands such as Ely and Little Downham.

## Why are they in decline?

- Loss of pond habitats due to drought, neglect, infilling or pollution
- Stocking of fish in ponds (fish eat newt tadpoles)
- Loss of hedgerows, scrub and rough grassland which provide shelter for newts travelling up to 500m from ponds.
- Ponds which are completely shaded by trees may be too cool for newts.



## A year in the life of... the Great Crested Newt

- January** Some newts emerge from hibernation and  
**February** return to ponds.
- March** Major newt migrations to breeding ponds.  
**April** Courtship begins.
- May** Females lay several hundred eggs on pond weed or other submerged plants. The eggs are less than 0.5cm across, with yellow centres.
- June** In water the newts are eating water lice, water shrimps and other small creatures.  
**July** Last egg laying takes place, although some tadpoles already have well-developed legs. Young newt tadpoles swim in the open and are very vulnerable to predation.
- August** Newts begin to leave the pond and search for worms and other food on land.
- September** Most newts will have left the pond by  
**October** October, but some juveniles will over-winter in the pond until the spring.
- November** Newts hibernate in sheltered, damp, frost-free places (sometimes in hedges or  
**December** heaps of rubble).



Appropriate management maintains and improves the wildlife value of a pond.

## What can you do to help Great Crested Newts?

- Please send us any records of sightings, recent or old.
- Get involved in practical work on ponds!
- Help survey for Great Crested Newts: we need to know more about their distribution and whether they still occur in ponds where they were recorded ten years ago. Contact the Wildlife Trust for details about training events and a licence. (A licence is needed for any work that will involve catching or handling newts, or restricting their movement.)
- Consider creating a pond in your garden or where you work—but don't stock it with fish!
- Get more information from detailed booklets about Great Crested Newts and the County Biodiversity Action Plan.

## Biodiversity Action Plan

Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity Partnership promotes the importance of conserving our species and habitats. Cambridgeshire Local Authorities, English Nature, the RSPB, the Environment Agency, the Wildlife Trusts and Anglian Water are all members of this Partnership. Biodiversity is described as the 'WOW' factor—the Wealth of Wildlife that surrounds us all.

The Biodiversity Partnership is implementing Biodiversity Action Plans for our species and habitats in Cambridgeshire. These plans include actions agreed to be undertaken by organisations to help preserve our wildlife. The plan for the Great Crested Newt will help to focus everyone on various actions to help the Newt to survive in Cambridgeshire.

[www.lcamcnty.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv/index.html](http://www.lcamcnty.gov.uk/sub/cntryside/biodiv/index.html)

Remember that all amphibians—frogs, toads and newts—are fascinating, declining in the countryside and worthy of your help.

