

What?

- The great crested (or 'warty') newt is the largest and the rarest of the three species of newts found in the United Kingdom; it can grow up to 17cm long.
- Newts are amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending the rest of the year feeding on invertebrates in woodland, scrub, hedgerows, marshes and rough grass. They hibernate underground, among tree roots and in old walls.
- Great crested newts are dark brown or black in colour with a distinct warty skin. The underside is bright orange with irregular black blotches. In the spring, males develop an impressive jagged crest along their back.

Why?

- Great crested newt numbers have been declining rapidly over the past 30 years due to loss of habitat.
- They and their habitats are protected by British and European law; it is an offence to:
 - kill, injure, capture or disturb them;
 - damage or destroy their habitat;
 - and to possess, sell or trade.
 - This law refers to all great crested newt life stages, including eggs.



Do ✓

- ✓ Stop work if you think you have seen a great crested newt and report this to the leader
- ✓ Keep a careful look out when moving logs, stones or rubble or clearing a site near to a pond, as these are favourite habitats for great crested newts



Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't try to touch or otherwise disturb any great crested newts you come across - you need a license to handle them



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