

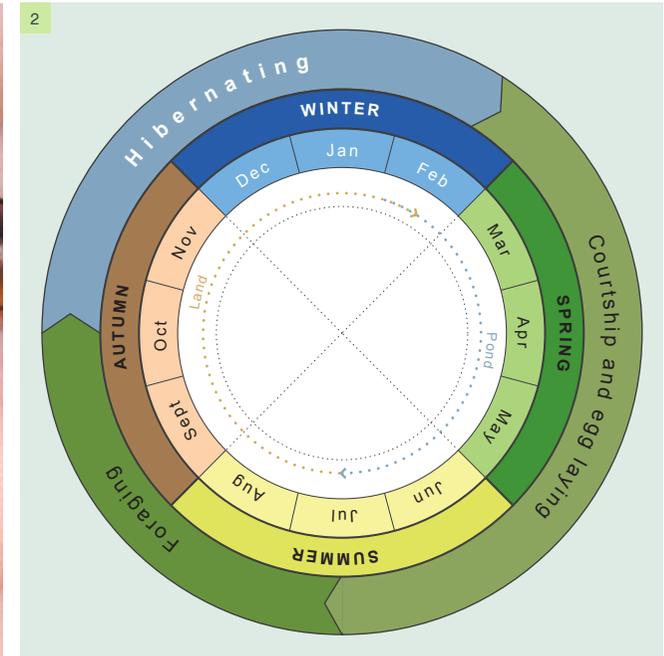
Ecology advice note 1: Great Crested Newts

The Great Crested Newt is protected under European and British legislation. In Britain the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provide protection for the Great Crested Newt, making a number of offences illegal. Offences include:

- Deliberate, reckless or intentional disturbance of GCN in a place of shelter
- Damage to, or destruction of a breeding or resting site
- Intentional or deliberate capture, killing or injuring of a GCN
- Intentional or reckless damage to, or destruction or obstruction of access to a place of shelter

The Landscape Partnership is able to undertake a range of newt consultancy services from initial scoping studies, which will identify if surveys are required, to detailed mitigation design and translocation. Our team of ecologists are able to offer the following services:

- Legislation advice
- Site scoping studies to identify potential for GCN presence
- Habitat Suitability Index surveys
- Presence/absence surveys and population size assessments
- Mitigation/enhancement design and Method Statements
- Negotiation with environmental regulators
- European Protected Species (EPS) licence applications (to Natural England)
- Translocation and population monitoring
- Habitat enhancement and creation



1. Male GCN in aquatic stage (the female would lack the dorsal crest) 2. Annual Great Crested Newt Activity Schedule 3. Male GCN

Surveys

Although scarce across much of Europe, Great Crested Newts are very common in parts of lowland England, and survey should be considered for all developments within 500m of still or slow flowing water (e.g. ponds, ditches) where vegetated linkages (hedges, verges etc) connect the water to the development site.

The programme opposite gives an indication of how survey timing constraints apply to the year calendar.

Early identification of Great Crested Newt presence can save money and prevent lengthy delays:

If surveys are carried out sufficiently early, there should be time to plan for carrying out in the appropriate season any GCN exclusions or translocations that may be necessary, without delays to the project programme. Later identification may mean that on-site project delay is incurred while waiting for the season when GCN are active.

When is a Licence Required?

The law requires a GCN licence from Natural England to be acquired for actions that may :

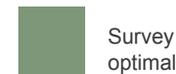
- **Damage, disturb or cause the loss of a breeding place**
- **Loss of habitat associated with a breeding place**
- **Capture and re-location**

Newt survey timings

Survey	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
HSI (Habitat Survey Index) survey - <i>can help to scope requirement for pond survey.</i> - particularly helpful for establishing/eliminating potential for GCN during winter months.	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Pond survey (for adults/eggs) - <i>requires up to 6 survey visits.</i> - Spring survey to establish presence/absence of breeding populations.	No survey	No survey	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	No survey	No survey	No survey	No survey	No survey
Terrestrial survey (pitfall trapping) - <i>not usually recommended but may be employed where it is not possible to gain access to pond</i>	No survey	No survey	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	No survey	No survey

Project Programming

A licence will only be considered by Natural England after planning consent is granted and normally takes approximately 2 months to be processed. This means that work on site may need to commence two months (or longer if translocation is required) after planning consent is received. If surveys are carried out early enough in the development of a project, it may be possible to build in this time allowance when programming a planning application.



Survey optimal



Survey sub-optimal



No survey