



Great crested newt ecology and survey

This introductory course will provide you with the skills and knowledge to undertake GCN surveys and is aimed at those working in consultancy or conservation. This course is part classroom and part field based.

Course content:

- Legislation/protection and conservation priorities
- GCN ecology
- Identification of newt species found in the UK
- Assessment of habitat potential for GCN (including pond Habitat Suitability Index)
- Survey and mitigation strategies and techniques
- Practical experience of planning and undertaking GCN survey to current best practice
- Reporting of survey results

You must be fit and able to walk across rough terrain, and require appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear, including Wellington boots.

Participants will be taken to a GCN breeding pond and will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned from the classroom session, including undertaking habitat suitability assessments and identifying GCN eggs. Bottle traps will then be placed, and a torchlight survey will be carried out after sunset. The following morning, there will be an opportunity to retrieve the bottle traps and identify their contents. The results of the field survey will be weather dependant and we cannot guarantee that GCN will be encountered or able to be handled.

A course certificate will be issued following completion of a test.

