

We are very fortunate to have several populations of Great Crested Newts in the Parish. Great Crested Newts have legal protection and may help our campaign to limit the unnecessarily large developments proposed in the Parish. We are seeking to create a log of sightings of these newts in order to support our campaign to protect them. This requires the protection of their breeding ponds and the land areas they use. They spend much of their time foraging on land and generally live in an area of ponds/waterways between which they will transit periodically. It is important that developments do not take away their feeding grounds or the transit routes between ponds leaving a population isolated. Figure 1 shows a Great Crested Newt swimming with the male's crest visible. Figure 2 shows the orange underbelly with black spots. However, unless you are under water or see one sunbathing on its back then you may not spot these more obvious markers. Figure 3 shows Great Crested Newts on land where they spend most of their time. The crest collapses along the back of the animal and the belly is hidden. The adult males are about 150 mm long (6 inches) and spend much of the day hiding in cool damp crevices in the ground, under stones or in thick undergrowth. You are not allowed to handle Great Crested Newts without a License so please do not disturb them or handle them. However, please try and take a photograph and record the location. Let Village Concerns (Jonathan Walker 840222) know. Most newts will be hunkering down for the winter now but will emerge again in Spring. However, they can often be found over the Autumn/Winter when doing the garden clear up of flower borders and occasionally sheltering under plant pots and seed trays.



Figure 1 – Great Crested Newt – Showing frilled crest and dip where tail begins.



Figure 2 – Underbelly of Great Crested Newt.



Figure 3 – Great Crested Newts on land with crests collapsed and underbelly hidden

If you spot any other rare plants or animals then please also let us know. If you would like to see a guide to some of the rarities that our Parish hosts then take a look at the survey reports in the Wildlife section of this Blog.