

Newts

Some residents are concerned that people are unaware of their responsibility to safeguard great crested newts. Wingrave, particularly Parsonage Farm area, is a stronghold for this endangered species.

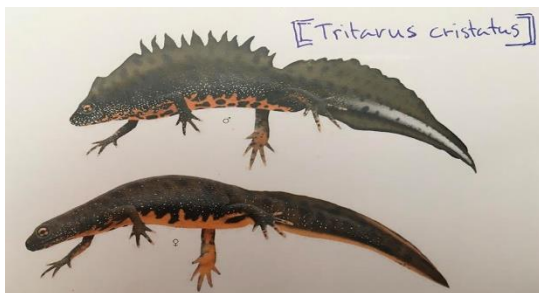
Here is the legal position:

Great crested newts

Great crested newts and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Therefore it is illegal to deliberately capture, injure, kill, disturb or take great crested newts or to damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any great crested newts occupying a place of shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any place of shelter or protection (see the legislation or seek legal advice for full details). Buckinghamshire Council have a statutory duty in exercising of all their functions to 'have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity', as stated under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC). As a result GCN and their habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.

We need to find ways of letting people know that they need to take care in their gardens if they are in an area where newts breed.

Jan Walmsley



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