

Toolbox Talk - Environment

Ecology – Great crested newts



What?

- The great crested newt (GCN) is the largest and the rarest of the three species of newts found in Britain and it and its habitat is protected by law;
- It grows to around 170 mm in length with a rough, granular skin;
- It has a vivid orange or yellow belly has an irregular pattern of black spots or blotches;
- It can be found in cable troughing routes, location cases, voids in ballast, under sleepers.

Why?

- Avoid prosecution: it is an offence to:
 - intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, capture or disturb a GCN,
 - damage, destroy or obstruct habitats where GCNs live or breed;
- Prosecution could lead to a fine of up to £5000 per newt and/or up to six months in prison.

DO

- ✓ Stop work in the immediate area and contact a line manager for instruction if it is suspected that GCN have been found on site.
- ✓ Rescue and safely relocate any newts still in danger after the activity has stopped and would otherwise die.
- ✓ Use EcoReporter or PhotoReporter apps to report sightings of newts.

DON'T

- ✗ Deliberately capture, kill, disturb or injure, try to touch or otherwise disturb any GCNs.

