



The above pictures show a female great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) and a female smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), which were both found during surveys by the Ecology Co-op at the pond in the northeastern corner of the Garth property grounds. The great crested newt is the larger of the two with 'warty' skin.

These newts come to the pond to breed in spring and lay individual eggs on aquatic vegetation (where they can), carefully folding a leaf over to protect the egg inside. During the rest of the year these amphibians are typically found hunting for invertebrate prey outside of the ponds in rough grassland, woodland, hedgerows and other suitable cover. During the cold winter months newts will hibernate underground or in suitable 'hibernacula' such as compost heaps.

Great Crested Newts and their habitat are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. If you see them, please do not touch or step on them as handling or killing them intentionally or recklessly is against the law. You need to have a special licence to handle them.

Information provided courtesy of the Ecology Co-operation Ltd

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Registered in England No. 2647007. Registered at Companies House. Registered Office: 100, West Street, West Sussex, BN1 1AB.