

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: December 2010

Module Code EE79	Module Title Great Crested Newts (II): Impact Assessment and Mitigation	Module Leader Phil Davidson BSc CEnv MIEEM
School which owns module	Real Estate and Land Management (RELM)	
Programme(s) to which module belongs	Applied Ecology for Professionals (elective)	
Module Level 7	Module Credits 7.5	Pre-Requisites Great Crested Newts (I)
Minimum Study Time 75 hours	Contact Hours within Study Time 8 hours plus additional tutor support	Teaching Period 1 day course October onwards
<p>Module Content</p> <p>This one-day course is aimed at professional ecologists with a background knowledge of great crested newt ecology and survey techniques, who wish to learn more about impact assessment and mitigation in relation to development projects that may affect great crested newts and their habitats. This course will assess impacts of development projects, including: loss of aquatic (breeding) habitat; loss of terrestrial habitat; fragmentation; habitat degradation; and indirect effects (hydrological changes and pollution). Information is also provided on licensing requirements. This course will also demonstrate good practice in mitigating development impacts through: project design; habitat creation, restoration and enhancement; pollution control; avoidance of disturbance, killing and injury; tunnels and fencing; translocation; timing of operations; and monitoring. Emphasis is placed on acquiring (through lectures, case studies and fieldwork) the necessary technical and ecological skills to protect this species and its habitat.</p>		
<p>Module Outcomes</p> <p>To achieve credit for this module, attendees must be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the process for obtaining development licences from relevant organisations. 2. Demonstrate an ability to carry out appropriate impact assessments for development projects on great crested newt habitat and populations. 3. Design and critically evaluate appropriate measures to avoid, reduce or off-set the impacts of development projects on great crested newt habitat and populations. 		

Assessment	Description	Weighting
Coursework	Students will be asked to submit a written evaluation report of no more than 3,000 words.	100%
<p>Key Text: English Nature (2001). <i>Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. Available at: http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/newt1</p>		
<p>Other supporting information Gent, A.H. and Gibson, S.D. eds. (2003). <i>Herpetofauna Workers' Manual. 2nd Ed.</i> Peterborough, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.</p> <p>Great Crested Newt Species Action Plan. Downloadable from: http://www.herpconstrust.org.uk/GCN.htm</p> <p>Highways Agency (2001). <i>Nature Conservation Management Advice in Relation to Amphibians. Design Manuals for Roads and Bridges: Vol 10; Environmental Design & Management; Section 4 Nature Conservation; Part 6.</i> http://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/vol10/section4/ha9801.pdf</p> <p>Langton T., Beckett, C. and Foster, F. (2001). <i>Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook</i>. Froglife, Suffolk.</p> <p>Lewis, B., Griffiths, R.A. and Barrios, Y. (2007). <i>Field Assessment of Great Crested Newt Triturus cristatus mitigation projects in England. Natural England Research Report NERR001</i>. Natural England, Peterborough.</p> <p>It is planned to use some elements of e-learning as part of delivery of the module to support module attendees. Copies of PowerPoint slides, key references and web resources will be made available online, along with email support for assignments.</p>		