

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE MODULAR SCHEME

Sheet updated: December 2010

Module Code EE78	Module Title Great Crested Newts (I): Background Biology, Survey Techniques and Legislation	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 None
Minimum Study Time 75 hours	Contact Hours within Study Time 12 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 who wish to learn about the ecology of great crested newts and other British amphibians, appropriate survey techniques and the relevant legislation that protects this species. This course aims to provide: background information on the biology of great crested newts and other British amphibians, their status and distribution, so as to understand when, where and how surveys should be carried out; information on legislative protection for British amphibians and licensing requirements. This course also demonstrates: habitat assessment for great crested newts, including the use of Habitat Suitability Indices (HSI); appropriate survey techniques for great crested newts; and how to avoid the spread of amphibian chytridiomycosis and other diseases. Emphasis is placed on acquiring (through lectures) and practising (in the field) the ecological skills necessary 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. Evaluate the behaviour, ecology and distribution of great crested newts (and other British amphibians), and how these influence when, where and how surveys for these species should be devised and justify their implementation. 2. Assess and evaluate the suitability of habitats for great crested newts, including the use of HSI. 3. Demonstrate an ability to safely use appropriate survey techniques for great crested newts to determine presence/absence and population size class. 4. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the legislation and licensing requirements relating to great crested newts and its application. 		

Assessment	Description	Weighting
Coursework	Students will be asked to submit a written evaluation report and management plan of not more than 3,000 words.	100%
<p>Key Text: Students should be familiar with the content of at least one of the following: Beebee, T. and Griffiths.R.H. (2000). <i>Reptiles and Amphibians. A Natural History</i>. Harper Collins, London. Langton T., Beckett C. and Foster, F. (2001). <i>Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook</i>. Froglife, Suffolk.</p>		
<p>Other supporting information</p> <p>Additional supporting references: ARG UK Advice Note 5: Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index. www.arg-uk.org.uk/.../ARGUKAdviceNote5%20HSI%20May%202010.pdf Beebee, T. and Denton, J. (1996). <i>The Natterjack Toad Conservation Handbook</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/IN291 English Nature (2001). <i>Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines</i>. English Nature, Peterborough. Available at: http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/newt1 Gent, A.H. and Gibson, S.D. eds. (2003). <i>Herpetofauna Workers' Manual</i>. 2nd Ed. Peterborough, Joint Nature Conservation Committee. Great Crested Newt Species Action Plan. Downloadable from: http://www.arc-trust.org/gcn/sap.php Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index Assessment Guidance Note: available from www.narrs.org.uk/Documents/nasdocuments/HSI_guidance.pdf NARRS (2008) <i>National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme (NARRS) Survey Pack</i>. The Herpetological Conservation Trust.</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>		