

## **Applying for licences to undertake standard survey work on great crested newts**

In many situations it is necessary to hold a licence in-order to undertake standard survey work on protected species. Before Natural Resources Wales (NRW) can issue a licence we need to have received all the relevant information.

To ensure we are able to deal with your application efficiently please read all the notes on the application form and answer all the questions fully. A licence can only be issued once NRW is satisfied that all relevant criteria have been met. Applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient experience to undertake the activity requested in the licence application.

If NRW does not receive all the information requested this may delay your application. NRW aims to process applications within 30 working days of receipt of **all** information requested.

The following brief information has been produced for applicants on the experience needed for certain activities:

- To disturb great crested newts by hand or through the use of a torch for surveying you must be able to demonstrate you have been on an appropriate training course, or held previous licences and had some field work experience (demonstrated by a log book of at least 10 visits).
- To take great crested newts through the use of bottle traps or handheld nets has greater impacts on newts and so will require greater experience. In addition to the above experience, we would expect applicants to provide a reference indicating that they have gained experience in the method.
- Pitfall and drift fencing methods are not included on general great crested newt survey licences. This type of trapping should be applied for on a site specific basis as particular monitoring requirements and method statements should be agreed before these methods can be used.
- To disturb, damage, destroy or obstruct access to resting places, breeding sites or places used for shelter or protection whilst undertaking any habitat management works should be applied for on a site specific basis with a detailed method statement and justification for the works that are to be undertaken.

### **Notes:**

- Any person providing a reference should indicate their personal experience of you undertaking the activity for which you are making the application.
- If you have held a previous licence from another agency a copy of your NE or SNH licence should be provided.

- Where possible be specific about the site or sites where you wish to undertake the work.

If you wish to train others on working with great crested newts then provide evidence that you have sufficient experience and indicate the maximum number of people you wish to train and the dates and venues of the events.

Where you wish to name assistants or accredited agents ensure they have sufficient experience for the specific activity and indicate which activities they are to carry out and where. The licensee is fully responsible for all persons acting under their licence. Any breaches could lead to CCW having to revoke your licence.

If during the proposed activities you are going to disturb other protected species then you may need a licence for that species as well. For example when undertaking bat survey work at underground sites where otters are known to occur you need to have a licence for otter disturbance in addition to the bat disturbance licence. However, a licence would not be required if there is no prior knowledge that another protected species will be present. For example, if bats are found whilst undertaking dormouse nest box checks, a licence should not be required provided the nest box is immediately closed and is then left undisturbed.

Holding a licence to work on protected species is a privilege and not a right.

If this is your first licence application then CCW will normally issue the licence for 1 year. Standard renewal licences are normally then issued for 2 years unless there have been problems in receiving licence reports