

Amphibians

on the Northmoor Trust Estate

©Alan James/naturepl.com



Great crested newt

Which species are found on the estate?

You will have a chance to see up for 4 different species of amphibian on our estate.



Common toad



Common frog



Smooth newt



Great crested newt



Common frog

What are amphibians?

Amphibians are creatures which spend part of their life in water and part of their life on dry land. Frogs, toads and newts are all amphibians that can be seen on the Northmoor Trust Estate.

Why is the Northmoor Trust Estate important for amphibians?



Undisturbed pools are essential for amphibians. Adult amphibians need to return to water to breed and their young can only survive in water.



Mature woodland is needed during winter. Woodland provides cosy hideaways for the secretive great crested newt's winter hibernation.

Amphibians need both ponds for breeding and dry land for feeding and hibernating. The clay soils that occur on our estate hold many ponds and the surrounding mature woodland and grasslands provide perfect habitats for amphibians.

We pride ourselves in caring for one of Britain's finest amphibian habitats. Amphibians living in our carefully managed woodland and grasslands return year after year to our ponds.

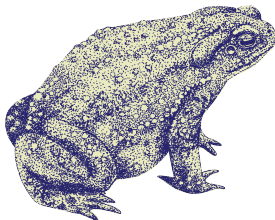
With these idyllic conditions, it's not surprising that the Northmoor Trust Estate has one of Britain's largest populations of great crested newt. For this reason, the reserve part of the estate has been designated as a globally important Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Noisy frogs and warty toads

Frogs and toads are most easily seen in spring. This is when the noisy males collect around pond edges searching for a suitable mate. During April look out for spawn in the variety of ponds on the estate. Tadpoles take 2 – 3 months to grow before emerging from ponds as tiny replicas of their parents.



Common frogs have smooth slippery skin and long back legs used for jumping. Adult frogs can often be seen around pond edges feeding on insects. Have a look in the ponds in spring for clumps of spawn and the brown tadpoles speckled with gold.



Common toads have rough warty skin and aren't as bouncy as frogs! They spend most of their time on dry land hiding under logs. During spring, look in the ponds for toad spawn laid in long strings and later on as they develop into black tadpoles.

Great crested newts

Although dashing handsome, with their long sleek bodies (often up to 15cm in length) and snazzy black and orange patterned bellies, these creatures are actually quite shy and very secretive.

The best time of year to see great crested newts is between April – June when they return to the water for the busy mating season. It's during the mating season that the male great crested newt develops its splendid jagged crest along the full length of his back and takes to the water to find a mate.

Newts will remain in the water until autumn when they leave the ponds with their young and spend winter in their hibernation retreats under fallen trees or inside tree stumps. Newts have great memories and return to the same patch of woodland to hibernate each year.

Great crested newt research on the Northmoor Trust Estate

Although common on our estate, great crested newt populations are declining in many areas across Britain. For this reason, the great crested newt and its habitat are legally protected against disturbance. If you are lucky enough to see great crested newts please respect the law and do not attempt to handle or disturb them.



Newts on the Northmoor Trust Estate have been carefully monitored since 1987. By using 'newt friendly' traps, we are able to monitor the newts' movements and record any population changes. There have been up to 3,000 breeding great crested newts recorded in our ponds each year. Some newts can live up to an amazing 14 years old!

Each great crested newt has its own unique belly pattern so each animal can be identified year after year.

Smooth or common newts

This species is much smaller than the great crested newt and has pale brown or olive green skin, and has two dark stripes on its back.



Visit **Project Timescape** to find out more about local wildlife and landscapes.

www.Proj

Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

 Heritage
Lottery Fund

the **Hanson**
environment fund

Keep an eye on our website at www.northmoortrust.co.uk for dates of our popular “**Meet the Amphibians**” events and get to know even more facts about these interesting creatures. You can now **Adopt a Newt** and help us to continue our vital conservation work on our estate. Visit our website for details or pick up a leaflet from Project Timescape.