

Devon Great Crested Newt Consultation Zones

Guidance for planning

- produced following consultation with a number of interested consultants, TDC, Devon Reptile and Amphibian Group and DBRC - currently pending final sign off from the LNP's Wildlife Strategy Group

ODPM Circular on Biodiversity Conservation (August, 2005) states that developers should not be required to undertake surveys for protected species unless there is 'a reasonable likelihood of the species being present and affected by the development'.

The distribution of Great Crested Newts (GCN) in Devon is restricted to certain areas. There are large parts of the county where GCNs have never been recorded and where it would be unreasonable to ask a developer to carry out an impact assessment.

GCN consultation zones have therefore been created around records (post 1970) in order to help consultants, developers and local planning authorities identify when they should consider the impacts of planning proposals on GCNs. **Note that these consultation zones have no statutory status and are purely to guide where it might be reasonable to ask for a GCN assessment following national guidance.**

The map below gives an indication of where these zones are. A more detailed map will be available shortly on the Devon County Council website. If you think that you are in one of these zones please contact Devon Biodiversity Records Centre for more information on the relevant GCN records. Note that they will charge for this information.

<http://www.dbrc.org.uk/> email: enquiries@dbrc.org.uk tel: 01392 274128

Note that previous Devon guidance (2012) set 2km consultation zones around GCN records. Feedback on this guidance indicated that, given the remaining unknowns regarding Devon's GCN population, these zones were too limited. The current zones are therefore based on a 5km radius from each record. This methodology effectively creates a few larger consultation zones across the county which, potentially, include meta populations of GCNs.

**If you have any comments on this guidance please email:
tom.whitlock@devon.gov.uk.**

*Please remember to send all positive **and** negative Great Crested Newt records to DBRC complete with date and grid reference

Great Crested Newt Consultation Zones February 2016

