

2019

Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group

Great Crested Newt Training Course





DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

Chair Kelvin Lawrence	Treasurer Jayne Thompson	Secretary Chris Monk
Committee members: Richard Fenn Griffen, Christian Murray-Leslie (Vice Chair), Lisa Lawrence, James Longley, Emily Major, Trevor Taylor		

Great Crested Newts and Licensing for Surveys training course.

Saturday 4th May and Sunday 5th May 2019

Hilton, South Derbyshire

A one day training course and field survey session on the Saturday followed by shorter field survey session on the Sunday morning.

Tutors

Chris Monk

Chris is the Derbyshire County Recorder for amphibians and secretary of the Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Group. He has carried out great crested newt surveys across the Midlands for many years and has run great crested newt survey training courses since 2000 for the Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Group, Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Groundwork and other groups.

He is the current Chair of Trustees for ARGUK (Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the United Kingdom) and has worked in the past as a Project Officer for Pond Conservation (now the Freshwater Habitats Trust).

Kelvin Lawrence.

Kelvin is the Chair of Derbyshire ARG and County Co-Ordinator for toad crossings. Formerly the Voluntary Reserve Manager for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI Nature Reserve, he is monitoring the great crested newt population at the reserve.

Other Group members may assist us on the day

Course Details

Location

The training course is being held in the Small Hall at Hilton Village Hall, off Peacroft Lane, Hilton Derbyshire, DE65 5GH. There is a large free car park at the Hall and the training course will be in the Small Hall, which is on the right hand side just inside the entrance to the building.

The field sessions will be held at Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI Nature Reserve under a permit from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. This is about 1.7km by road from the village hall and there is car parking at the entrance to the reserve off Willowpit Lane just north of the A50 / A516 interchange, where there is a cul-de-sac section of the former road alignment.

A location map for the venues is found by following this link [on Google Maps](#)

If link doesn't work copy this into your browser

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zFbE3Tfyr0JY.k-iplycxGYFA>

Timing

Saturday 4th May

10.25 to 10.45 Arrival, Tea and coffee (please wait until the Zumba class have left the hall before attempting to enter the Small Hall)

10.45 to 13.15 Indoor session 1: Introductions, Species ID, Ecology, Legal status and Licensing, the GCN Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)

13.15 to 13.45 Lunch break

13.45 to 14.30 Indoor session 2: Biosecurity and great crested newt survey methods including environmental DNA (eDNA)

14.45 Depart for Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI Nature Reserve

15.15 Visit GCN pond to demonstrate eDNA water sampling followed by sweep netting and egg search.

16.00 Install bottle traps on GCN pond

17.00 Depart

21.15 to 23.00 Evening session meet at Hilton Gravel Pits Nature Reserve for torchlight survey.

Sunday 5th May

8.45 am meet at Hilton Gravel Pits SSSI Nature Reserve to check and remove bottle traps. Finish 10.30/11.00am.

Refreshments provided

Tea, coffee & biscuits will be provided for the indoor session at Hilton Village Hall on Saturday.

What you will need to bring

You will need to bring your own lunch for Saturday and make arrangements for the time between the afternoon and evening sessions. Usually some attendees adjourn to the Hilton Brook pub, Egginton Road, Hilton, DE65 5FG.

Pen and paper or electronic devices for taking notes.

Wellingtons - **these need to be clean and dry** to ensure there is no possibility of introduction of plant fragments, disease vectors etc onto the Nature Reserve, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Suitable warm and waterproof outdoor clothing for the field sessions, bearing in mind the possible weather conditions and night-time temperatures. A High Vis reflective jacket or tabard will be useful for the evening torch light session.

Installing and removing bottle traps will involve contact with pond water, so bring waterproof gloves if you are concerned or if you have cuts or abrasions that could make you vulnerable to Weils Disease.

Torch for the evening session. This should have a reasonably compact bright beam and be fully charged / have new batteries so that they will give at least one hour of continuous use. There may be a couple of spare Clulite torches available.

Course fees

Please bring cash on the day or by sending a cheque to
Derbyshire ARG, Hilburn, Chapel Lane, Middleton, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 4NF.

The fees are:

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Group members £5.00

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust trainees £5.00

Non-members £30.00

Contact number on the day

If there is a problem on the day and you can't make the event, are delayed or have got lost (!) please phone Chris Monk on 07791 607381.

Prior to the day please email derbyshirearg@gmail.com with any queries or problems.

Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group is a member of

Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is a registered charity (number 1165504) committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs)



ARG UK