

Tell us what you've seen...

Please be as accurate as possible. If you're not sure about something please leave it off your recording form or indicate that you are unsure about it. Even if you see nothing, still let us know as it is useful information.

About you

Your name:

e-mail address:

About the garden pond that you have surveyed

Garden postcode (essential)

Address (optional)

Is this pond in your garden? ☐ (tick box if yes)

About what you've seen

Tick the relevant box to tell us what you've seen:

common frog	<input type="checkbox"/> adult	<input type="checkbox"/> spawn	<input type="checkbox"/> tadpole
common toad	<input type="checkbox"/> adult	<input type="checkbox"/> spawn	<input type="checkbox"/> tadpole
smooth newt	<input type="checkbox"/> adult		
palmate newt	<input type="checkbox"/> adult		
newt (unsure)	<input type="checkbox"/> adult		
great crested newt	<input type="checkbox"/> adult		

When did you see them? DD MM YY

No amphibians seen in this garden ☐

About the garden

How many ponds are in the garden?

Has frogspawn been introduced to the garden? ☐

Have other amphibians been introduced to the garden? ☐

If yes, which species?

Does the pond have fish? ☐ if yes, which species?

.....

Other comments:

.....

Please return this form to: **What's in your pond?**
106 Thicketford Road, Bolton, BL2 2LU

or join the online survey: www.whatsinyourpond.org.uk

What to look for

In England, five species of amphibian can be found in garden ponds: **common frog** • **common toad**

smooth newt • **palmate newt**

great crested newt

- The best time to see amphibians is in spring when they return to the pond to breed.
- Frogs, smooth newts and palmate newts can breed successfully in ponds that are only 1m x 1m.
- Ponds with lots of vegetation and no fish are best for all amphibians.
- Frogs are the first to arrive in ponds, usually in late February or early March. Clumps of frogspawn are laid soon after.
- Toads normally arrive in ponds several weeks later than frogs, often in mid to late March.
- Newts start to arrive in ponds during March, but they are most active during April and May.
- During the breeding season, male newts have a crest - a thin piece of skin - which lies flat when the newt is on land.
- Start off by looking for amphibians around the edges of the pond, especially in the shallows, among vegetation or just below the water surface.
- To find amphibians in your pond you can use a small net or kitchen sieve. Sweep the net through the water and pond weeds several times and see what you collect.
- If you find any animals, **handle them with great care** and after you've identified them, place them carefully back in the pond.
- Newts are mainly nocturnal, so a good way to see them is to visit the pond after dark and shine a powerful torch into the water.

Enter your records online at:

www.whatsinyourpond.org.uk

This project is part of LARA - the
Lancashire Amphibian and Reptile Atlas project



What's in your pond? let us know!

Help find out about the amphibians of
Lancashire, Greater Manchester
and Merseyside



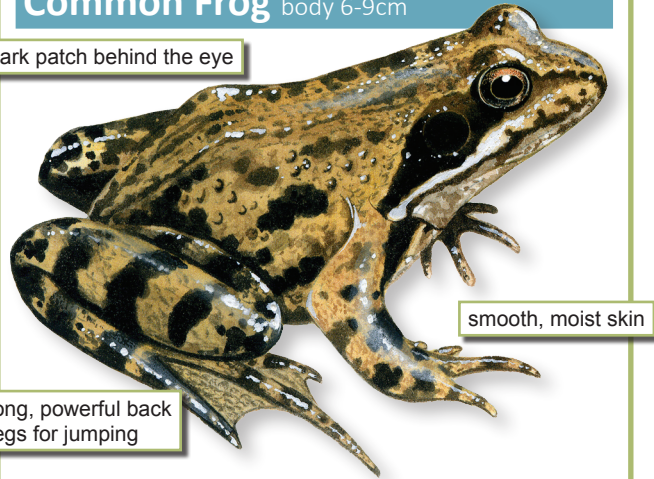
*If you have access to a garden pond,
take a closer look and let us know
what you find!*

www.whatsinyourpond.org.uk



Common Frog body 6-9cm

dark patch behind the eye



smooth, moist skin

long, powerful back legs for jumping

- Colour is very variable. Individuals can be shades of grey, brown, yellow or orange. Some females have red markings on the lower body and underneath.
- Markings are also variable, including different patterns of black spots and stripes.
- Frogs often move quickly when disturbed by making long jumps.

Common Toad body 6-9cm

rough skin



back legs shorter than those of frog

- Toads don't tend to move quickly - they make small jumps rather than the long jumps of the common frog.
- Toads lay their spawn in strings wrapped around pond plants. This is more difficult to see than clumps of frogspawn.

Palmate Newt (male) 8-9cm

low crest on the tail



two lines of dark spots on the tail

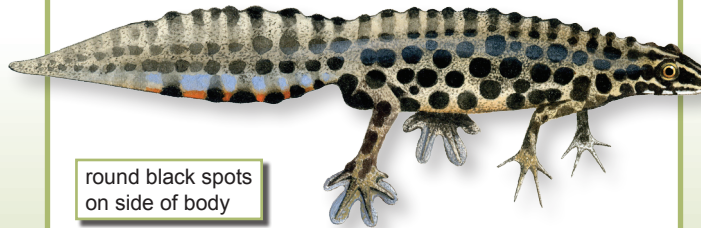
thin, hair-like "filament" at the end of the tail

dark, webbed hind feet

pale orange belly with small pale spots or freckles

Smooth Newt (male) 9-10cm

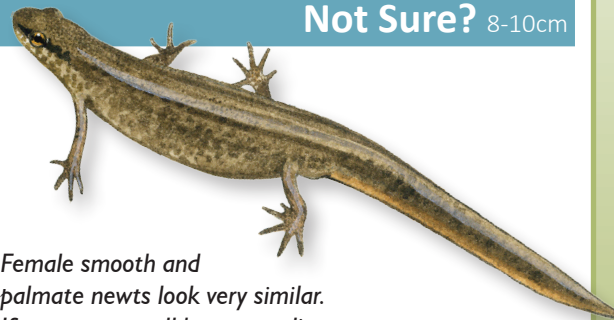
smooth wavy crest, continuous from the head to the end of the tail



round black spots on side of body

orange belly with distinct round spots

Not Sure? 8-10cm



- Female smooth and palmate newts look very similar. If you see a small brown or olive newt and you're not sure which species it is, you can record your observation as "newt (unsure)". This means that it could be either species and is more accurate than guessing "smooth" or "palmate" newt.

Enter your records online at:

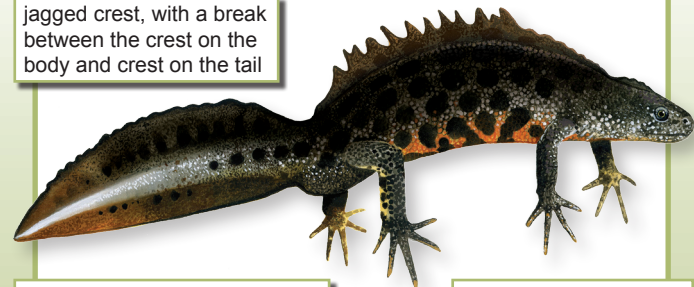
www.whatsinyourpond.org.uk

Identifying Newts

- Smooth and palmate newts are regularly found in garden ponds. The great crested newt is much larger than the other newts, growing to 15cm long, but is rarely found in garden ponds.
- Great crested newts are often confused with smooth newts as they both have orange bellies and a crest down their back. **Please check carefully to ensure that you've identified your newt correctly!**
- Great crested newts have rough, granular skin which is dark brown. They can appear black when on land.
- The UK holds some of the largest great crested newt populations in Europe, but it is still our fastest declining amphibian.
- **Great crested newts are protected by law, so a licence is needed to disturb them.**

Great Crested Newt (male)

jagged crest, with a break between the crest on the body and crest on the tail



white stripe or "flash" on the tail

Bright orange belly with irregular black pattern

Great Crested Newt (female)

female great crested newts never have a crest. However, they can look very similar to the males, especially when on land.



orange stripe along the base of the tail