

Set 2: Newt Identification Cards - Terrestrial Phases

Detailed photographs and descriptions of all the United Kingdoms native newt species in their terrestrial phases



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The Newt Year	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Terrestrial	/	/					/	/	/	/	/	/
Aquatic			/	/	/	/						
Eggs			/	/	/	/						
Larvae	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

Sub-adults remain terrestrial until they become sexually mature at 3 years old.

Newt larvae sometimes spend the winter in the pond.




The male's breeding crest is absorbed at the end of the breeding season. A just visible remnant remains in view lay flat against the male's back

The white stripe on the adult male's tail remains visible all year

Skin; granulated, warty, colour black/dark brown, small white spots.

Male Great Crested Newts can reach 14cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July to February



Skin; granulated, warty, colour black/dark brown, small white spots.

No white stripe on the female's tail

Female newts have no remnant breeding crest

Female Great Crested Newts can reach 18cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July to February

The male's breeding crest is absorbed at the end of the breeding season. There is a just visible remnant that remains in view, lay flat against the male's back

Skin dry and leathery in texture/appearance. Wide variations in colour. The dark "leopard" body spots remain visible all year



The male's tail has lost its flared appearance; rear toes are no longer splayed/feathered

Underbelly, pale red with black spots

Male Smooth Newts can reach 9cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July to February

No "leopard" body spots, no remnant crest. The female's underbelly is pale orange and freckled with small dark spots

Wide variations in skin colour, often confused with the female palmate

Skin dry and leathery in appearance

Adult female

Sub-adult Smooth and Palmate newts are indistinguishable from each other

The underside of the adult female's chin is spotted

Sub-Adult

Female Smooth Newts can reach 10cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July to February

Skin dry and leathery, head and body freckled, wide variations in colour, easily confused with the male smooth newt

A parallel line of dark spots runs the length of the male's tail, the black tail filament remains visible all year

The male's rear feet remain webbed all year

The male's underbelly is pale lemon and often unmarked

Male Palmate Newts can reach 7cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July - February



Female Palmate Newts can reach 8cm in length - Terrestrial Phase July to February

Skin dry and leathery, tail lightly freckled no tail filament or remnant breeding crest. Wide variations in colour, from light through to very dark brown, easily confused with the female smooth newt

Rear feet not webbed

Underbelly pale lemon, lightly freckled with small dark spots

Chin unmarked translucent/pink

Sub-adult crested newt 6cm in length with warty, granular textured skin, a perfect miniature version of the adult

Sub-adult smooth newt 3cm in length. Colour uniform shade of brown, dry leathery appearance

Sub-adult smooth are very difficult to distinguish from sub-adult palmate

At 16 weeks old the majority of all newt larvae have left the pond and entered their terrestrial phase as sub-adults. Most leave the pond between August and October. They will not return to water until they become sexually mature at 3 years old. Occasionally individual larvae of all 3 species will "over-winter" in the pond

