

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2019
A. Emphasise the legal protection that exists for the species and for both its aquatic and the terrestrial habitats to landowners and land managers, including local and national designations.	ongoing	Ongoing. Achieved by Warwickshire Reptile & Amphibian Team.	↓	↑
B. Identify opportunities for the restoration and enhancement of ponds.	2020	In progress by the Warwickshire County Council through the development of a District Level Licence application to Natural England. This includes the creation and enhancement of enough ponds to meet Warwickshire’s GCN Favourable Conservation Status. Advice is provided as part of the Local Wildlife Site Project.		
C. Provide a comprehensive approach to pond survey work and review the manner by which pond data is gathered and managed.	2020	In progress through the application of the great crested newt (GCN) Habitat Suitability Index (HSI). Warwickshire Council is a member of the Natural England GCN Expert Panel that is discussing monitoring as part of a District Level Licence national approach to GCN conservation.		
D. Establish a strategic, spatial approach to pond creation for great crested newt to develop resilience to climate change and meet connectivity requirements and other habitat threats.	2020	Achieved. Warwickshire County Council and Habitat Biodiversity Audit have mapped great crested newt-favourable habitat and the likelihood of finding their presence in 2019. This modelling incorporates pond clusters (via pond density). This is in preparation for a Warwickshire County Council Great Crested Newt District Level Licence.		
<p>Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline 2019: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline</p>				

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	% OF TARGET	ACTION STATUS ↑↗↔
PL1. Set criteria to allow clusters of great crested newt breeding ponds to be considered for statutory designation and as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), emphasising the importance of the significant numbers in Warwickshire in the context of lower populations in neighbouring counties.	2015	In progress. Local Wildlife Site Project: discussed at panel meetings in 2016. Waterbodies / ponds criteria are under review to include a wider range of species than just great crested newt (GCN) and specification to be written. There are barriers that need to be overcome to survey pond clusters (e.g. multiple landowner permissions).			↑
PL2. Campaign to further encourage Local Authorities to act in line with best practice	ongoing	Some progress Warwickshire County Council (WCC): planning applications are checked for potential			↑

guidelines as part of their statutory duties and as part of the planning process, e.g. provision of newt friendly gully pot kerb stones. This may include training sessions.		<p>impact on great crested newt colonies. Overall very few applications consider ponds up to a radius of 500m. Special gully pot kerb stones are included in planning responses and through working with Highways. HS2 will use on all access roads.</p> <p>Warwickshire Amphibian & Reptile Team (WART): following an amphibian ladder trial in 2015, British Herpetological Society ladders were installed with permission of SMBC in Balsall Common in 2017 and with County Highways in Warwick in 2018.</p> <p>Warwick District Council (WDC): 2016 - 2 offences reported to police resulted in the creation of a new pond.</p>			
SM1. Implement a programme of pond construction in target areas identified by RM3.	Review in 2017 when the new criteria in place	<p>In progress</p> <p>Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT): several ponds constructed on local reserves at Eathorpe Marsh, Tocil Wood and Shadowbrook Meadows.</p> <p>WART: construction of ponds in Kenilworth, Bubbenhall, Cryfield Grange, Stoney Road Allotments, Warwick Allotments, Balsall Common, Solihull, Oldberrow and Moreton Morrell.</p> <p>DM Kineton: 3 ponds created for GCN relocation.</p> <p>WCC: is working with a number of landowners to create and enhance ponds in preparation for a Natural England agreed GCN District Level Licence. Four ponds at Snitterfield and one scrape at Oversley Green were granted planning permission in 2019.</p>	15 sites minimum		
SM2. Establish and implement a management plan and programme for clusters of GCN ponds – 10 per year (see RM8).	2020	<p>Some progress (see Ponds Action Plan RM2)</p> <p>LWSP: there is a need to overcome the barriers (e.g. multiple landowner permissions) to survey pond clusters (see PL1)</p> <p>WART: restoration of great crested newt ponds at Dunchurch, Tile Hill in Coventry, Henley Green in Coventry, Warwick University</p> <p>DM Kineton: restoration of 2 GCN ponds.</p> <p>Friends of Brandon Wood: restoration of 1 GCN pond.</p>	6 sites	60%	
RM1. Record every known great crested newt pond digitally; non-records and survey methodology to be included. Record the presence of fish and wildfowl where achievable.	ongoing	<p>In progress</p> <p>WART: all known records are stored electronically and passed to Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WBRC).</p>			
RM2. Identify areas that have been under-recorded and prioritise for surveys.	2015	<p>Achieved</p> <p>WART/Warwickshire Biological Record Centre (WBRC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have mapped all GCN positive and negative 1km squares; also all 1km squares with no amphibians (deserts). This baseline information to be used to target survey work. • directed surveys have already provided encouraging evidence of great crested newt breeding populations within areas where previously no records occurred, e.g. Princethorpe Woodlands. • The 'Atlas of the Amphibians & Reptiles of Warwickshire - Vice County 38 Records up 			

		to 2018' was produced in 2019.			
RM3. Undertake surveys to assess pond clusters and determine whether these can be identified as important GCN breeding sites.	2020	In progress. LWSP: see PL1. WWT: uses the great crested newt HSI (ARG UK Advice Note 5) to evaluate the quality of pond clusters on its reserves. The index of suitability (= 1 for 4 or more ponds/ km ²) is derived by dividing the number of ponds within 1km of the survey pond by 3.14 (pi).			↑
RM4. Develop a programme of pond construction, identifying cost effective contractors and mechanisms for this work, using habitat mapping to identify target areas.	2015	Some progress. WCC: 4 ponds and 1 scrape were granted planning permission in 2019.			↑
RM5. Produce and trial a modified Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) for great crested newts that can be applied to aerial photographs.	2015	No progress WBRC: a volunteer has started a GCN monitoring database of all HSI scores from consultants' reports and associated eDNA and/or presence/absence survey results.			↔
RM6: Apply the modified HSI to ponds, especially in the prioritised areas (see RM2). <i>This action has been reworded in the revised action plan</i>	2020	No progress Progress at a district level: Warwickshire County Council (WCC) is a member of the Natural England GCN Expert Panel that is discussing monitoring as part of a District Level Licence national approach to GCN conservation.			↔
RM7: Initiate a stratified survey programme to determine the effectiveness of a modified HSI and to provide an evaluation of the approximate numbers of great crested newt breeding ponds within each landscape unit. <i>This action has been reworded in the revised action plan</i>	2020	No progress Progress at a district level: WCC: pond connectivity analysis is being considered as an approach to be used within the District Level Licence approach. This could be expanded to demonstrate Future Trend and Favourable Conservation Status requirements under the Habitat Regulations reporting criteria.			↔
RM8. Initiate a programme of targeted pond surveys to determine status of great crested newt populations in the prioritised areas (see RM2). Such surveys should include daytime visits to check for efts.	2020	Achieved WART: this is used all over the county as proxy for evaluating pond quality.			↑
CP1. Develop links with large development companies, large employers, quarry operators and ecological consultants to promote pond construction and management as part of their working operations.	ongoing	In progress. WCC: working with Jaguar Landover; more possibilities exist and it hopes to enshrine in policy.			↑

CP2. Provide National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme training annually to ensure a supply of volunteers to undertake surveys.	ongoing	Achieved. WWT: supports training by WART, ensuring that the number of volunteers capable of undertaking surveys to identify great crested newt populations is increasing within the sub-region.			
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