

Mini Project

Frog, Toad, or Newt Spawn Sighting - Part 2

Which Newt is It?

For newt spawn to be recorded we need to know which species it is from. There are three newt species in the UK and all are found in the borough, although the smooth is much more common. Identifying spawn is quite difficult so identifying your newt makes it much simpler.

Smooth or Common Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)



About 10 cm long head to tail.

Smooth olive green to brown skin covered in black spots.

Yellow to orange belly with small black spots, with pale spotted throat.

A large wavy back crest on the male when breeding. May lead to confusion with Great Crested Newt

Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*)



Similar to the smooth newt in appearance and colouring but a little smaller.

White or pink spotless throat and a dark stripe through the eye.

Breeding male's tail has crest and ends in a filament, back feet are webbed.

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)



Heavily built and 15 cm long.

Granular and warty looking skin that is dark brown or black with white spots.

Bright orange underside with black blotches.

A large jagged crest with a gap and silver stripe on the male during breeding.

SPAWN

Great Crested Newt



Smooth
or
Palmate

amphibian and reptile
conservation 

Feature	<i>T. cristatus</i>	<i>L. vulgaris</i>	<i>L. helveticus</i>
Colour	Yellowish white	Brownish grey/off grey	
Size	Length c. 4.5 mm	Smaller than GCN c. 3mm	
Egg Shape	Oval	Rounder than GCN	

NB: Newly laid eggs (inside the jelly), will be round for all the species.