

# Session Outline

## KS3/4: Habitat Suitability Study: Great Crested Newts

This outline is a general guide for what to expect during your session with us. Activities and session structure may vary depending on weather conditions and other circumstances.

<b>National Curriculum links:</b> KS3 programmes of study – Geography & Science	
Learning Objectives	Session outline
<p>Science (Biology, Ecosystems):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods of identifying species and measuring distribution, frequency and abundance of species within a habitat</li> <li>• Positive and negative human interactions with ecosystems</li> </ul> <p>Geography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes</li> <li>• Use fieldwork in contrasting locations to collect, analyse and draw conclusions from geographical data, using multiple sources of increasingly complex information.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Introduction</b>  <b>Ecological surveys are an important part in the process of the management of human interaction with the natural environment. Milton Keynes is home to a large population of the endangered Great Crested Newt species with its many green spaces. As Milton Keynes continues to expand, surveys are required to record their populations to ensure their habitats are protected.</b>  <b>Explore why such surveys are necessary, the various methods used by ecologists and conduct your own Habitat Suitability Index survey in the field with a Parks Trust Ranger.</b></p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study UK newt species, their identification and legislation regarding Great Crested Newts.</li> <li>• Exploration of different newt survey techniques and their strengths and weaknesses</li> <li>• Exploration of a Habitat Suitability Index, its methodology and how it is conducted</li> <li>• Conduct and complete a Habitat Suitability Index on a pond location to assess the likelihood of a Great Crested Newt population.</li> <li>• Review the survey results and their implications.</li> </ul>
Pre Visit activities	Post Visit activities
<p>Study a variety of different maps of the pond and surrounding area to be studied in the session.</p> <p>Look at Natural England Wildlife and Habitat Conservation documents and policies :-  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/wildlife-habitat-conservation">https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/wildlife-habitat-conservation</a></p> <p>Study Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and its implications for wildlife.</p>	<p>Analyse and review Habitat Survey Index results in detail and discuss any interesting findings/anomalies in findings.</p> <p>Explore whether individual students results were the same for a particular site or did a level of subjectivity occur within the class?</p> <p>Complete Habitat Suitability Indexes for other locations. Use the results as a comparison and analyse why there may be differences/similarities with other locations.</p>

Discuss why ecological surveys are important.	
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