

3 Amphibians

Triturus cristatus **great crested newt**

Current status WCA 5; EC II, IV; Bern II.

Threatened elsewhere in Europe, Britain has one of the largest populations. It has declined recently, with an estimated loss of 2% per year. In this region it has a widespread but local distribution in lowland areas. It breeds in ponds, lakes, canals, usually without coarse fish. Hibernacula/refugia are on land under cover such as stones, wood piles or hedgerows.

Threats Loss of ponds to development; destruction of ponds and /or hibernacula; neglect of ponds, leading to silting up and drying out; introduction of fish.

Breeds in key habitats: eutrophic standing water and mesotrophic lakes.