

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3 rd February 2026
Report Title	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust: Great Crested Newts '26
Agenda Reference	14
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager

Background

In early January, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust contacted several parish councils locally to discuss a programme of events looking at the whole of the Great Crested Newt (GCN) mitigation area for what was at the time of building "Middle Clover." The map has been included as part of the agenda pack.

Haydon Wick Parish Events

- **15th April 2026 - Grace Walk - 19:45 until after dark**
As the pond has become pretty much inaccessible the event will focus on local people to Grace Walk, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust volunteers will show them the GCNs and talk of their importance but also discuss some of the work that needs to be done to the scrub land around the pond to ensure the pond and GCN survive. This will be a smaller event of up to 15 participants.
- **20th May 2026 - Queen Elizabeth Park – 20:30 until after dark**
This location is in the centre of the newt mitigation area. This can be a wider public event for up to 20 participants.

The events will be facilitated by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and volunteers with support from the Parish Council – booking is advised due to the small numbers at each event. A poster will be circulated shortly.

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Event Plan

Great crested newts																		
	Site	Visit	Sunset	Twilight	Start	Details												
February 27th	Blakehill				09:30	Preparation day - ensure all traps are cleaned, new traps constructed. Thermometers new batteries, guidance notes laminated, survey sheets printed (or digitised) - biosecurity proytocols and necessary items, torches, nets, waders - paint top of canes etc... ALL REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF - more hands will make this easier.												
March 2nd	EW	1	17:50	18:20	17:00	Clear access to all ponds, intial HIS scores, Hand search, torch and net - trap if weather allows												
March 3rd	EW	1			07:30	Empty traps												
March 10th	MC	1	18:05	18:35	16:30	Clear access to all ponds, intial HIS scores, Hand search, torch and net - trap if weather allows												
March 11th	MC	1			07:30	Empty traps												
March 17th	BC	1	18:15	18:50	17:00	eDna tests, hand search, torch and nets. Check refugia. Traps if weather permits												
March 18th	BC	1			07:30	Empty traps												
March 24th	GW	1	18:30	19:00	17:30	Clear access to all ponds, intial HIS scores, Hand search, torch and net - trap if weather allows												
March 25th	GW	1			07:30	Empty traps												
March 31st	RM	1	19:40	20:15	19:00	Hand search including under logs etc, torch and net. Traps												
April 1st	RM	1			08:00	Empty traps												
April 7th	EW	2	19:50	20:30	19:30	Hand search, torch, net and traps												
April 8th	EW	2			08:00	Empty traps												
April 8th	EW	3			20:00	Set Traps, Torch, net. Public event												
April 9th	EW	3			08:30	Empty traps												
April 14th	MC	2	20:00	20:40	19:00	Edna tests, hand search, torch, nets and traps. Check infrastructure												
April 15th	MC	2			08:00	Empty traps												
April 15th	MC	3			19:45	Set traps, net, torch - Public event												
April 16th	MC	3			08:00	Empty traps												
April 21st	BC	2	20:15	20:55	19:30	Hand search, torch, nets and traps. Egg search												
April 22nd	BC	2			08:00	Empty traps												
Apr 28th	GW	2	20:25	21:00	20:00	Edna test, hand search, torch, nets and trapping												
Apr 29th	GW	2			08:00	Empty traps												
Apr 29th	GW	3			20:30	Set traps, hand search, nets and torch - egg search												
April 30th	GW	3			08:00	Empty traps												
May 5th	RM	2	20:40	21:15	20:15	Hand, net and torch. Set traps - careful search for eggs and efts												
May 6th	RM	2			08:00	Empty traps												
May 6th	RM	3			20:30	Set Traps												
May 7th	RM	3				Empty traps												
May 12th	EW	4	20:50	21:25	20:15	Hand, net and torch. Set traps - careful search for eggs and efts												
May 13th	EW	4			08:00	Empty Traps												
May 13th	EW	5			20:15	Set traps - torch and egg search - Public event												
May 14th	EW	5			08:00	Empty traps												
May 19th	MC	4	21:00	21:40	20:30	Set traps, torch, net, egg search and efts												
May 20th	MC	4			08:00	Empty Traps												
May 20th	MC	5			20:30	Set traps torch and egg search Public event												
May 21st	MC	5			08:00	Empty traps												
May 26th	GW	4	21:10	21:50	20:40	Set traps, torch, net and egg search and efts												
May 27th	GW	4			08:00	Empty traps												
June 2nd	EW	6	21:20	22:00	21:00	Set traps, torch, net and egg search and efts												
June 3rd	EW	6			08:00	Empty traps												
June 3rd	BC	3	21:20	22:05	21:00	Set traps, torch, net and egg search and efts												
June 4th	BC	3			08:00	Empty traps												
June 11th	MC	6	21:25	22:10	21:00	Set traps, torch, net and egg search and efts												
June 12th	MC	6			08:00	Empty traps												
June 12th	Blakehill				19:30	Midnight newts - it is close to the longest day (3.04 minutes shorter) A chance to stay up late find some newts - have a BBQ, watch bats find some moths and other nighttime wildlife. Celebrate the end of the newt season. Put all of the equipment to bed for the winter months												
July 7th	EW/MC				19:00	Summer newts - a chance to visit the ponds and make a final HSI score based on informatiopn from the past two years. If we take some nets we may see larger size efts for identification.												
BM	Blackmoor copse	3 visits	2 largish ponds			Information only - Staff GCN licence												
EW	Eastbury Way	6 visits	4 ponds			Inform possible restoration works - staff and volunteer licence												
GW	Groundwell	4 visits	2 ponds			Information only - Staff and volunteer licence												
MC	Middle clover	6 visits	7 ponds			Inform possible enhancement works - staff and volunteer licence												
RM	Rivermead	3 visits	4?ponds			Information only - Staff and volunteer licence												