

Lonnin Head Dub



A Short History of the Dub

Ancient Droving Routes once criss-crossed this area, with drovers making their way from Silloth and Scotland, taking cattle, sheep and geese to farms in the east and south of England.

Locally animals were moved along these routes from farms to the local markets. Thus there was a demand for somewhere to water the animals on route and hence this facility was probably created.

Farms with fields in the vicinity of the dub would also bring their cattle to water before mains water was available.

Animals passing through, to drink, would attract insects as well as grubs and these in turn would attract amphibians as a food source

Newts and Frogs

The Lonnin Head Dub and the surrounding terrestrial habitat, the old dry stone walls and dense vegetation, are of major importance to sustain this pond as a breeding site for all 3 species of British newts.

These newts are smooth, palmate, and the strictly protected great crested newt. In addition to these common frogs and common toads also breed here. As all 5 of these amphibian species breed here makes this a very unique site.

Other wildlife you might see

It would not be unusual for you to see any of these wildlife favourites visiting Loning Head Dub so keep your eyes open you never know what you might find.



Mallard Ducks



Wren



Red Admiral and Peacock Butterflies

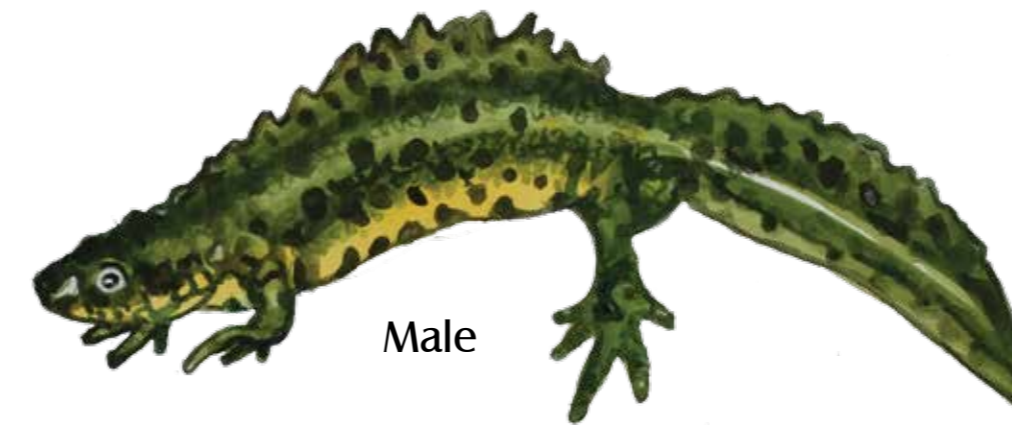
Please note

Great Crested Newts are a protected species requiring a licence to handle or disturb their habitat. Interference with the environment of this site is strictly forbidden and illegal.

Recent environmental work carried out here has been done under the auspices of Great Salkeld Parish Council with aid from Nurture Lakeland and Cumbria County Council

For more information regarding the Dub and Great Salkeld in general go to: www.great-salkeld.net

Great Crested Newt



Male



Female

Great Crested Newts grow 12 to 15 cm long and the male is distinctive by its jagged crest and a silvery coloured flash in the tail whilst in the water during the breeding season. Both sexes have a yellow under belly and spotted and granular, rough skins. They are not sexually mature until 3 years old but can live into the teens of years.

Smooth Newt



Smooth or Palmate Newt Eggs

Newts lay about 2 eggs per day which are usually found wrapped singly in a leaf. They lay from March to June and hatch after about 21 days. The larvae remain in the water until July or August, they then spend most of their lives living amongst dense vegetation and rocks or dry stone walls.

Larvae usually feed on tadpoles, worms, insects and insect larvae. Adults hunt in ponds for other newts, tadpoles, young froglets, worms, insect larvae, and water snails. They also hunt on land for insects, worms, and other invertebrates.

Newts hibernate from October to March

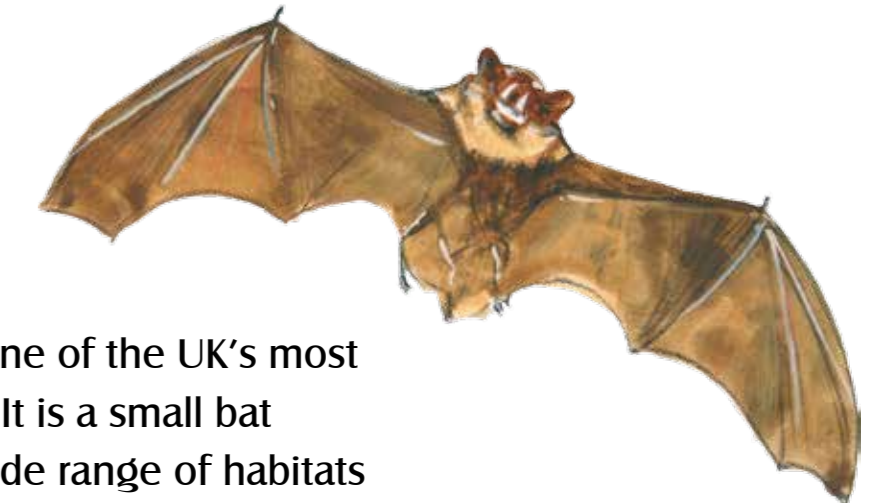
Common Frog

The Common Frog may be seen around ponds in early spring, where they lay frog spawn which later develops into tadpoles, then froglets.



Common Toad

Common toads secrete an irritant from their skin that deters most predators from wanting to eat them which can help them live up to 40 years.



Pipistrelle Bat

The Pipistrelle Bat is one of the UK's most common bat species. It is a small bat which is found in a wide range of habitats including farmland, woodlands and urban habitats. It can be seen hunting insects over the pond after dusk. It mainly eats small flies.

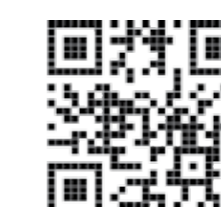


Moorhens

Moorhens feed both on water and land and so have a varied diet of leaves, seeds, berries, worms and snails. The Moorhen will build her nest in thick vegetation on the far side of the pond.

Dragonfly

The most instantly recognisable (and largest) British dragonfly is the Emperor. It has bright green and azure blue markings, and flies high above the water, defending its territory..



www.great-salkeld.net