

Kit contents

- 2 x pairs of gloves
- 1 x Whirl-Pak stand-up bag
- 1 x ladle
- 1 x pipette
- 6 x 50ml conical centrifuge tubes (each containing 35ml of preservative solution)
- Sample submission form
- Personal details form
- Resealable bag for return of tubes
- Return box



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applied genetics



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Great Crested Newt
Sampling Instructions

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Thank you for ordering a DNA test from chxout.com



Precautions:

- Avoid sampling in heavy rain both for your own safety and to avoid cross-contamination.
- Please do not enter the pond before or during water sampling.
- Please do not collect sediment in your water samples.
- If samples are collected and stored prior to their return to us, then please store refrigerated (2-4°C). Please return your samples to us within 30 days.

Sampling Instructions

Please note, Natural England will only accept Great Crested Newt DNA testing results from samples collected between April 15th and June 30th each year.

1. Identify

Identify your target pond and identify the areas where you are going to collect your water samples. We suggest you collect 20 x 30ml samples from different locations around your target pond. Please evenly spread the sampling locations around the pond margin and include a mixture of vegetated areas and open water. It is best to avoid areas with densely packed mats of vegetation and areas where the water is less than 10cm deep.

2. Kit

Please put on a pair of gloves which can be found in your kit. Next, open the Whirl-Pak bag by tearing off the plastic strip along the perforated line, then pull the tabs.

3. Stir and Collect

Use the ladle to gently stir the water column from the surface to close to the bottom of the pond. Please try to avoid disturbing the sediment on the pond's bed. Collect a 30ml sample of pond water using the ladle and transfer it into the Whirl-Pak bag. Collect a 30ml sample of pond water for the remaining 19 sampling locations and add them to the bag.

4. Seal and Shake

Close the Whirl-Pak bag securely by folding over the top tabs several times and then by bending the tabs inwards. Mix the contents of the bag thoroughly to ensure that the DNA is evenly mixed through the sample.

5. Transfer

Please put on a fresh pair of gloves. Then using the plastic pipette provided, transfer 15ml of pond water from the Whirl-Pak bag into each of the 6 conical centrifuge tubes, filling each tube up to the 50ml mark (each tube should contain 35ml of preservative solution). Please firmly screw the cap back onto each tube then fill out the sticker on each of the tubes with the date, your name (client ID) and the sample ID.

6. Shake

Mix the contents of each tube for 5 seconds to mix the sample with the preservative solution. Empty the remaining water from the Whirl-Pak bag back into the pond. You may dispose of the pipette, Whirl-Pak bag, gloves and ladle.

7. Package and Post

Please complete both the personal details form and the sample submission form. Enclose all 6 samples into the resealable bag then place your samples along with the completed forms into the return box provided and seal.

Please then return your samples to us by courier. If you wish for us to arrange the courier, then please email us at sales@chxout.com.

In this email, we require the address (Postal Code, City, Address 1, Address 2 and Address 3) of where the kits will be collected from, your contact details (addressee's name, phone number and email address), the number of kits being collected and the date on which you wish your kits to be collected. We will do our best to book the requested date between 8:30am-5pm. Once we have booked the courier, we will email you with the collection documents. The relevant documents need to be printed and attached to your parcel before they are collected by the courier.

Please be aware that the return of your samples by courier is not covered in our charges and additional fees will apply.

Should you wish to return your samples directly to us, they can be brought to The Durham Genome Centre, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester, Co. Durham DH7 0EX. Opening times: 9am – 5pm Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays).