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Great Crested Newt District Licensing Scheme

The Quick, Simple, Certain and Sustainable option

Our District Licence scheme brings licensing and planning together in a streamlined approach for developers, ecological consultants, planning agents, Local Planning Authorities and great crested newts.

Our scheme is designed to speed up development delivery, enable a simple route for licensing, give certainty with legal obligation and ensure a sustainable future for great crested newts through the implementation of a long-term, landscape level conservation strategy.

Over 70% of the South Midlands is within 500m of a pond, which means great crested newts will be a material planning consideration for many proposed developments – there is now an alternative licensing route open to developers.

NatureSpace has worked with Local Authorities to help them gain their own district wide great crested newt licences (granted by Natural England) to enable a quicker, easier and more cost-effective process for licensing for developers. NatureSpace are the delivery body used by LPA's to administer and deliver this option.



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The scheme is based around a long-term, district-wide conservation strategy that helps to support great crested newt populations at a landscape level.

The input from developers supports the offsite creation of aquatic and terrestrial habitat as well as the monitoring and management of great crested newt habitat and conservation status by the Newt Conservation Partnership.



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The option that is:

Quick

Free enquiry process, 10-day report turnaround and its available all year round – no more waiting for the survey season

Simple

Brings planning and licensing together – no need to separately apply to Natural England post planning consent

Certain

You can futureproof your development, deal with everything at the planning stage and be reassured that legal obligations have been met for the development site

Sustainable

Through our partner the Newt Conservation Partnership, we provide compensation at a ratio of at least 4 new high-quality ponds for every single newt pond damaged or lost – along with good terrestrial habitat, in areas which provide long-term security for newt populations



Currently Operational in the Following Local Planning Authorities

Districts

Aylesbury Vale, Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Cheltenham Borough, Cherwell, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester City, Milton Keynes, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, South Northamptonshire, Stroud, Tewkesbury Borough, West Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse.

To learn more about the scheme or to find out which areas are coming into the scheme next please contact us at

info@naturespaceuk.com