

INTRODUCING DISTRICT LICENSING

Over 70% of the South Midlands is within 500m of a pond, which means great crested newts will be a planning and licensing consideration for any proposed development – but now there is a new and better system you can use.

Natural England has granted seven Local Planning Authorities in the South Midlands a District Licence relating to great crested newts that will mean a quicker, easier and more cost-effective process for developers and planners. NatureSpace will run the new scheme.



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Benefits for developers include:

Certainty: the licence system is watertight and you know what the costs will be ahead of applying for planning permission

Time and Money Efficiencies: even with complex developments, the process takes less than 6 months and costs from as little as £1,000, capped at £90,000, compared with the 18-month timescales and up to £250,000 costs associated with the traditional option of on-site surveys and mitigation

Flexibility: the licences can be granted all year around, releasing you from the constraints of spring-only surveys

Social Responsibility: the licence fee paid will be used to create new ponds and habitats across the region for newts and other wildlife

Media Assistance: NatureSpace can provide you with a fact-based statement of support from leading conservationists

Nationally Recognised: the scheme is government endorsed and is fully supported by conservationists and your Local Planning Authority.

The Seven Planning Authorities operating this scheme are: Milton Keynes, Aylesbury Vale, Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse, and Oxford City.

