

BACKGROUND

NatureSpace was established to design, manage and deliver the district licensing scheme, supporting developers and local planning authorities.

The scheme was developed by a consortium of organisations – The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Nature Metrics and Environment Bank – in conjunction with the South Midlands local planning authorities.

NatureSpace works with developers and participating local authorities to assess development proposals under the new scheme, advising developers on the scheme's requirements. Costs to developers are dependent upon the location and scale of development.

OUR PEOPLE AND PARTNERS

With backgrounds in wildlife conservation and management, protected species legislation, policy and licensing, biodiversity offsetting and net gain, the team has a wealth of relevant experience.

Dr Tom Tew

Tom Tew is the founding Director, co-owner and first CEO of NatureSpace. Tom spent half a lifetime working for Natural England and its predecessors, with his last role on Natural England's Executive Board as their Chief Scientist. At English Nature and the JNCC he held a wide range of local, regional, national and International roles over the course of 20 years. Since 2011 Tom has been the Environment Bank's CEO, guiding the company through the transition from the early 'offsetting; arguments through to the more productive discussions on 'net gain for biodiversity'.

Tom originally trained as a zoologist, with a PhD and early research career at Oxford. He has served on many national and international Boards and Committees, was until recently the Chairman of the Vincent Wildlife Trust, and is currently appointed by the Prime Minister to be the natural heritage expert on the Board of the Heritage Lottery Fund & National Heritage Memorial Fund.



A strategic approach to great crested newt licensing is one of the rare 'paradigm shifts' in conservation policy that could fundamentally improve the system for Local Authorities, for developers and, most importantly, for newts. Tom is determined to ensure that the delivery of strategic licensing is done as efficiently and effectively as possible, with the greatest possible long-term benefits for all.

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Sarah Garratt



Sarah Garratt is NatureSpace's Director of Conservation. With a law degree and postgraduate studies in ecology, Sarah has specialised in protected species licensing for over ten years. Previously the European Protected Species Specialist and Senior Adviser in the licensing team at Natural England, and with experience in local government and in the private sector, she is committed to finding and using effective solutions to manage development and protected wildlife issues.

Sarah has worked on a wide range of high risk and complex development projects and is keenly interested in how the planning and licensing process can better deliver sustainable development with positive outcomes for conservation – she has spent the last year working with NatureSpace's partners developing a new, innovative approach to deliver strategic licensing for great crested newts.

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Mike Bull

Mike is a passionate conservation ecologist based in Oxford who struggles to avoid clichés and has wanted to work in conservation since he was very young. He has moved to NatureSpace Partnership from a background in ecological consultancy and scientific research, where he developed his skills and knowledge of UK protected species. Great crested newts were an integral factor of this work and Mike gained a deep appreciation for their unique ecology, working on both small developments and large-scale infrastructure projects.

Mike studied Zoology and Biodiversity Conservation where he cemented his love for herpetology. He focused on endangered amphibians and reptiles throughout his studies and chased this passion around the globe. After expeditions in the Himalayas and Madagascar, Mike designed and delivered a sponsored expedition to identify the reptile population of Bandundu Province, DR Congo. Experiencing the vast declines in these locations has motivated Mike to embrace out-of-the-box thinking to ensure we protect the precious species we have left.

Mike has a strong belief in the need for brave steps and top-down change to make a difference in conservation and believes NatureSpace is an exciting new direction for ecological policy in the UK.



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