

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Missed the boat on survey season? We can help you get planning all year around. Our scheme is faster, cheaper and has long term environmental benefits - great for CSR and the environment. Our team is growing - contact us now to find out how we can help you. Read on for more details.

On the 25 May 2018 the EU's new data privacy law, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect. NatureSpace takes the security and safeguarding of the personal data of our contacts, customers and web users very seriously – see our Privacy Notice [here](#).

Missed the boat on this survey season?

Don't worry, you don't need to do newt surveys! Under the District Licensing scheme, you can avoid the usual survey delays and costs and get started sooner. The district licences granted by Natural England to seven South Midlands planning authorities are based on a substantial, region-wide survey effort undertaken last year. We used these results to create models of the region, identifying which areas have the most (and least) risk of newts. We are bringing the benefits to you, through a Government-backed, Natural England approved scheme where the licences are held by (and have already been granted to) the planning authorities. NatureSpace manages the scheme on behalf of the planning authorities. By joining the scheme, there's no need for you to wait for next year's survey season - the NatureSpace scheme operates year-round and you get the benefit of the survey work we have done. The licensing process operates alongside the planning process, so you get your development licensed at the same time (or very shortly after) you get planning consent (not months later if you apply separately to Natural England, and only after you get planning consent).

Save time. Save money. Save newts. Simple.

A passion for ponds

The scheme works on the basis that habitat lost because of development is compensated for by our partners, the South Midlands Newt Conservation Partnership (SMNCP). They create top quality habitat for great crested newts, re-connecting existing populations and allowing them to spread.

The SMNCP create both ponds and associated terrestrial habitat so developers don't have to, maximising developable area for the development site and ensuring good habitat is created in the best places possible.



**SAVE TIME,
SAVE MONEY,
SAVE NEWTS!**

Under the standard licensing system, developers generally have to create compensation ponds and other habitats within their own development site, or find alternative sites close by to accommodate new habitat for newts. This not only creates a headache for developers, but also provides piecemeal compensation in a fragmented landscape for great crested newts, which sadly often does little to contribute to their conservation. The SMNCP also do all the ongoing habitat management so developers don't have to, and all of the long-term management and reporting is done by NatureSpace and the NSP, again relieving developers of those obligations – which would be required under a standard site-based mitigation licence.

The wonderful news is that the work is well under way! We have ponds in the ground, designed and created by conservation experts with a passion for amphibians and freshwater habitats. These water bodies are created to provide excellent quality ponds for great crested newts (and a host of other wildlife) – here are some created in previous years by our conservation partner (Figure 1) – these ponds meet high habitat quality indicators and are thriving with newts, frogs and toads, invertebrates and aquatic plants, all taking advantage of the prime real estate. For our new ponds, it's only a matter of time!

Building the team

The team at NatureSpace is growing, following the addition of Mike Bull, our South Midlands Project Officer in February. In May we hired our first Local Project Officer, Indea Chawk, to work with Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils. Indea's new role is being tackled with her trademark enthusiasm and diligence and will involve working with the council and developers to make the running of the scheme as smooth as possible in Bedford and Bedfordshire.

Other Local Planning Authorities and NatureSpace are recruiting Local Project Officers across the region to help Local Planning Authorities run the scheme and to help guide developers through the process.

How can we help you?

Do you have a project that should be considering newts? Are you curious if the scheme could work for you? For answers to your questions or for a no-fee, no-obligation quote please contact Mike or visit our [website](#). The [background information](#) page has plenty to read to get to know the scheme and includes the slides from our recent seminars, if we missed you this time.

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Figure 1. Our conservation partners, the SMNCP's logo