

From: Indea Chawk

Sent: 26 August 2020 10:32

To:

Cc: Bob Neville

Subject: 20/02083/OUT - District Licensing for great crested newts - the simple, quick, certain and sustainable licensing option

Good Morning,

I am writing to you with regard to the live planning application with Cherwell District Council. We have noted that great crested newts have been considered as part of the development proposal, and to invite you to learn more about district licencing and the benefits that it could offer your client, should liceisng be required.

Planning Application Ref

20/02083/OUT

Description

Outline – Erection of up to 14 two-storey dwellings

Address

Land north of Hempton Road and west of Wimborn Close Deddington

Great crested newts (GCN) and their habitat are legally protected and as such certain activities that may have to be undertaken as part of the development process (e.g. removing topsoil, removing vegetation, works on or near ponds etc) can have a negative impact. In order to make those activities lawful a licence is required – and the District Licence held by Cherwell District Council is available as an alternative to the more lengthy, onerous standard licensing system for great crested newts ([check out our scheme and how it compares with traditional EPSL licences here](#))

Our impact mapping software allows the likelihood of great crested newts to be assessed at a glance, which means we can identify at the outset whether your development site is in an area of suitable newt habitat – without you having to wait for the survey season and commission lengthy surveys of ponds on and around the development site.

Quick summary of NSP Scheme benefits include:

Its Simple

Free [enquiry](#) process and within 3 days we confirm the processs for the development

Access the ‘District Licence’ during the planning process and allows planning authorities to authorise developments under their own Council-held ‘District Licence’ at the same time as planning consent is granted*.

Its Quick

Applications can be made all year round

Once joined, reports are provided within 10 working days ready to submit to the Local Planning Authority

Its Certain

All GCN requirements are known prior to planning consent

It's a no-risk approach that helps avoid unexpected discoveries at a later date

It's Sustainable

60% of development input pays into a sustainable landscape scale compensation strategy

Compensation is delivered off site, with generally no habitat creation or long term management requirements for developers.

*should permission be granted for the application.

Why should we consider this approach?

Even where newts may be assessed as a 'low' risk, the South Midlands is a particular hot spot and great crested newts are widespread and frequently come into conflict with the development process.

By entering the district licensing scheme, you would be covered under that licence and so if a great crested newt is discovered after construction works have started, the development is authorised under a licence to move any newts from harm and continue without having to stop works or have recourse to Natural England for a licence at that stage.

If you have any questions or would like to find out further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Indea Chawk

Project Manager
South Midlands Region

NatureSpace Partnership