NatureSpace District Licensing

Validation supporting pack - Old Quarry House, Steeple Aston

NatureSpace case reference

202610041

Purpose

Supporting information for validation of the Section 62A planning application for land north of Old Quarry House, Fenway, Steeple Aston.

Key confirmation from NatureSpace

The proposal has been quoted through Cherwell District Council's Great Crested Newt District Licensing scheme. NatureSpace identifies the development as Major, sets out the District Licensing process and provides the applicable first-stage quote.

Documents included

1. This covering summary.
2. Original NatureSpace quote and response (3 pages), reproduced unchanged.

This cover page is a presentation aid only. It does not amend or replace the original NatureSpace document, which follows in full and unchanged.

Dear [redacted] thank you for enquiring into Cherwell District Council's great crested newt District Licensing scheme

Why choose NatureSpace?

QUICK

No requirements for GCN surveys, reducing the potential for survey seasons to impede your progress.

We issue reports and certificates within a guaranteed **10 or 5 working days** respectively.

SIMPLE

The District Licence can be dealt with **alongside planning**, so you can receive planning approval and be authorised under the licence, simultaneously. What's more, our **District Licensing Officers** will help support you and the Planning Authority through the process.

Once you have paid your first and second-stage fees, that's it. **No hidden fees, no ongoing costs.**

CERTAIN

Our Scheme is **guaranteed** to satisfy the Local Authority that great crested newts have been accounted for. All **compensatory** habitat **is** provided **off-site**, providing you with **maximum flexibility** to impact all land within the development boundary.

Once covered under the District Licence, if newts are found on or near your site, you're covered to move them and carry on with work.

SUSTAINABLE

Compensation habitats are designed and delivered by the Newt Conservation Partnership (NCP), our expert partners in the field.

Created habitats are managed and monitored for a **guaranteed 25 years.** That means even if the scheme ceases to exist, your money will continue to benefit the conservation of this species for years to come.

477
NUMBER OF PONDS

1,538
HECTARES OF TERRESTRIAL HABITAT MADE AVAILABLE

Data accurate as of July 2025

Freshwater Habitats Trust

NEWT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

amphibian and reptile conservation

Your development - Quote



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NatureSpace case ref.:	**202610041**
Development scale:	**Major**
Impact Risk Zone:	**Red**
First-stage fee:	**£5000 (+VAT) to commission report (plus £5k payable post-consent)**
Second-stage fee:	**Proportionate***
Mitigation during works:	**Reduced & flexible**
Timescale options:	**10 working days****
Quote valid until:	**19/01/2027**

*Fee is proportionate to impacts in each case, calculated using the detailed NSP GCN Metric.
**Guaranteed only when first-stage fee is paid alongside completed application

Your development - Details

This development is situated in our Red impact risk zone, meaning there is a very high chance of encountering great crested newts. Considering that there are also two ponds within 150m, a licensing option for this protected species is very sensible here.

Please see the above quote, which outlines the first-stage cost of a two-stage payment scheme:

1. The first-stage fee is paid to join the scheme and receive a formal Report which your client would need to submit in support of the planning application. This is split into two £5k +VAT payments: one is payable alongside the application, and the next is payable alongside the second-stage fee.
2. The second-stage fee is a proportionate contribution to the conservation strategy, payable before or after planning.

Next steps
Once you apply, we'll conduct a detailed site assessment, considering hundreds of landscape and ecology factors to calculate the exact impacts of the proposed development on great crested newts. Then, we will use our Natural England-approved metric to calculate a proportionate compensation fee. This is the second-stage certificate fee, and payment of this will enable the works to be authorised under the District Licence (if/when planning consent is granted).

To kick this off, please complete and return our application form, along with habitat survey data from the past two years and any other relevant reports/plans. Once we've received payment and have all the application files we need, we will set a 10-working day deadline within which we will deliver your report.

Please note that we do also offer an upfront assessment option for development proposals with a validated planning application, which provides an option to find

out the proportionate cost ahead of the first-stage payment to join (but with a longer turnaround up to six weeks). If this is of interest, please let us know and we can delay until there a valid planning application in place.

If you have any questions at all, please just let me know.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted] (he/him)
Technical Officer

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