

WHEN TO CONSULT YOUR NEWT OFFICER ON GREAT CRESTED NEWTS

Remember that not all applications need consultation

Requirements by application type

For MAJOR applications - please consult your Newt Officer

For MINOR applications in the red or amber impact risk zones

Review the application and answer the following questions.

Section A	Is there a pond on site or within 250m of the development site?	OR	Is there a pond within 500m and the site more than 5Ha in area?	Yes / No
Section B	Is suitable GCN habitat likely to be impacted? <i>Examples are rough grassland, meadows, woodland, scrub, ruderal vegetation, log piles, rubble piles, mammal burrows, ponds and ditches</i>	OR	Is there habitat connectivity between the site and nearby ponds? <i>Examples are hedgerows, grassland, scrub, woodland, tree lines, old walls (particularly dry-stone walls)</i>	Yes / No

If you answered YES to a question in BOTH sections A and B then please consult your Newt Officer.

HOUSEHOLDER applications

You can consult your Newt Officer if the application meets ALL of the following criteria:

1. The site lies in the **red** or **amber** impact risk zones
2. There is a pond onsite or within 50m of the red line boundary
3. There is suitable habitat affected by the development proposal (e.g., rough grassland, meadows, woodland, scrub, log piles, rubble piles, hedgerows, ponds and ditches).

It is unlikely that these applications will have an impact on great crested newts and therefore do **NOT** need to be sent to your Newt Officer for consultation.



- Change of Use
- Advertisement Consent
- Conservation Area Consent
- Listed Building Consent
- Tree Preservation Order
- Discharge of Conditions (unless relating to the District Licence conditions).

If you have received ANY submitted ecological information regarding great crested newts or NatureSpace District Licence documents, please consult your Newt Officer.

Options for applications where there may be an impact on great crested newts



Survey and assess the development impacts: demonstrate that there are no licensable impacts / propose reasonable avoidance measures / propose compensation to satisfy standard licensing requirements.

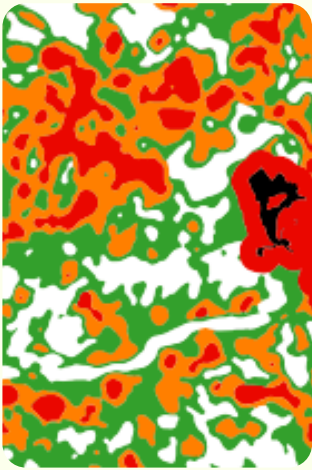
OR



Join the District Licence Scheme and avoid all of the above.

What are impact risk zones (IRZs)?

Impact risk zones (IRZs) are identified through a complex modelling process to assess habitat suitability for great crested newts across each region. The modelling process uses advanced techniques and the most up to date information – great crested newt survey data and many environmental variables. All the maps are subject to consultation with planning authorities and national, regional and local great crested newt experts before they are launched. The maps are very good at predicting where great crested newts are likely to be present – with at least 95% accuracy. The maps overcome issues such as survey bias and a lack of survey effort in some places (a lack of records does not always mean a lack of presence – it might just be that no one has surveyed for newts).



Black zone = sites containing nationally important great crested newt populations (area excluded from the District Licence Scheme).

Red zone = the most suitable habitat, with a high risk of great crested newts. Developers may be able to use the District Licence Scheme but there will be some mitigation requirements (e.g. best practice / timing / capture of newts).

Amber zone = suitable habitat, great crested newts likely to be present.

Green zone = low risk areas where great crested newts are less likely to be present.

White zone = unsuitable, great crested newts highly unlikely to be present.

About the Newt Officer role

This checklist is by no means exhaustive and is meant to be used as a guidance document.

After reviewing the checklist, if you are still unsure whether an application will impact great crested newts or their habitats, please get in contact with your Newt Officer and they will review the application in more detail.

Newts can turn up in unexpected places and can cross stretches of bare open ground, hardstanding and arable fields, they can also shelter under debris and within cracks in arable fields and quarry floors. They will cross roads (or use culverts/underpasses) and have been found in canals. Therefore although certain sites may seem unsuitable for great crested newts at face value, more information may be required from the applicant to determine whether there will be a likely impact or not after an initial 'assessment' by a Newt Officer, an ecological consultant or a third party.

Upon receiving a consultation request your Newt Officer will provide comments stating whether an impact is likely/unlikely, if further great crested newt information is required from the applicant and what options they have to address their potential impacts (if applicable).

This advice relates only to great crested newts and not any other protected species or ecology matters.