**Licensing for Great Crested Newt**

There are now a few different ways to apply for a licence from Natural England to do development or other work that may affect great crested newts and find out how much you may need to pay:

* Greater Manchester has a [district level licensing scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-district-level-licensing-schemes), a quicker and simpler option to applying for a GCN mitigation licence. Find out more below.
* Apply for a [GCN Mitigation Licence](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-apply-for-a-mitigation-licence)
* Or via an ecologist who is a registered consultant under our low-impact class licence scheme.

**Benefits of district level licensing**

In a nutshell district level licensing:

 Better conserves great crested newts

 Is simple to use

 Offers developers certainty in terms of costs and timescales

 Means developments that have been through planning will not be held up by protracted post-planning licensing

 Results in lots of high value, secure ponds for newts which are managed and monitored for the long term

**The cost to join the district level licensing scheme**

Natural England have put together this note to explain the breakdown of fees and how they calculate the cost to join the scheme, together with some examples.



**More information**

In autumn 2019, Natural England ran a series of webinars with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to provide more information on district level licensing:

[District Level Licensing: How the NE-led scheme works](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efJ0YYD1MbM) *– scheme overview*

[District Level Licensing: eDNA Survey and Data Collection](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQ7KknOOxXo) *– evidence base #1*

[District Level Licensing: Species Distribution Modelling](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rW2wogDclE) *– evidence base* #2

[District Level Licensing: Habitat Delivery for the NE-led scheme](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVeBuJ3U--w)

[District Level Licensing: How to apply](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1ZOrUGu91A&feature=youtu.be) – *does what it says!*

**Data open to all**

As part of the district level licensing project, Natural England completed the largest ever survey of its type for great crested newts across England, funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The data is open and has been published to [ArcGIS Online](file:///C:\Users\m305883\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\PKCKXLBT\•%09https:\www.arcgis.com\home\item.html%3fid=ffba3805a4d9439c95351ef7f26ab33c) and is available at [Data.gov.uk](file:///C:\Users\m305883\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\PKCKXLBT\•%09https:\naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com\datasets\great-crested-newts-edna-pond-surveys-for-district-level-licensing-england). Read their [gov.uk blog](https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2019/12/17/natural-englands-geoportal-england-wide-data-for-great-crested-newts-now-available/) to find out more.

**Other things of interest**

Read more about Natural England’s [Geography in Government Award for their species distribution modelling](https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2019/05/10/district-level-licensing-team-wins-the-operational-delivery-gse-geography-in-government-award/) for the district level licensing project.