

# Wildlife Licensing Newsletter



February 2020

## Dear Stakeholder

Welcome to the February 2020 edition of the Wildlife Licensing Newsletter.

We hope you find it useful and welcome any feedback that you have.

Please share the newsletter with any colleagues to whom it may be of interest.

Anyone wishing to be added to or removed from the mailing list can contact us via [wildlifeneewsletter@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:wildlifeneewsletter@naturalengland.org.uk)



## In this edition:

**Launch of charging for great crested newt (GCN) mitigation licences**

**Update on GCN Low Impact Class Licence (GCNLICL)**

**Badger licences: introduction of charges**

**Get advice on your licence before you submit it**

**District level licensing available soon in more places**

\* \* \* \*

## Launch of charging for great crested newt (GCN) mitigation licences

In the January newsletter, we described our plan to implement charges for GCN mitigation licences with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> February. Charges will now be applied, at the point of licence issue, for all new applications and modification requests that we receive, unless the licence is issued for a purpose which is exempt from charges.

### How much will my licence cost?

Licence	Fee	
	New applications	Modifications
A14 great crested newt (GCN) mitigation licence	Variable Typical cost between £1000 - £2,500; some complex licences will cost more; some could cost less.	Variable Typical cost between £75 - £1000; some complex modifications will cost more; some could cost less.
CL33 low impact great crested newt (GCN) class licence: site registration	£130	Variable

The variable price is based on how much time it takes to assess the licence, at a rate of £101 p/h, (plus, for new licences, a £183 payment towards compliance checks). This amount will enable us to cost recover for processing these licences. Income from charges will help fund further improvements to the licensing service.

### Applying for a licence

When you apply for a licence you will now need to fill in a charge screening form. This will allow us to determine whether a charge exemption applies or whether you need to pay a fee.

When you make a new application for an A14 GCN mitigation licence, you can ask us for a price indication. You can find all A14 forms here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-apply-for-a-mitigation-licence>

As usual, the class licence forms are available on Huddle for registered consultants.

Please note that if work is being undertaken in an area where there is a [district level licensing](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-district-level-licensing-schemes) scheme, this can offer a quicker option to an individual mitigation licence. More information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-district-level-licensing-schemes>

## Update on GCN Low Impact Class Licence (GCNLICL)

We are currently reviewing our position on the availability of training to enable the registration of new ecological consultants (registered consultants). We will provide further updates in the next edition of the Wildlife Licensing newsletter.

### Badger licences: introduction of charges

We intend to introduce charging on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for the following two badger licences:

- A24 Interfere with a badger sett for development (variable fee)
- CL35 Badger class licence: site notification for development or to prevent serious damage (£160 for new applications; variable for modifications)

Please note that 6<sup>th</sup> April is the first date at which we will be accepting applications for these licences. This is 12 weeks before the licence season starts.

We also plan to introduce charges on the same date for the following licence, where this is used for surveys in advance of development projects:

- A29 licence to kill, take, disturb or possess wild animals for science, education or conservation

## **Get advice on your licence before you submit it**

If you know your project may affect a protected species, you can get advice before you start on a licence application by paying for our “pre-submission screening service” (PSS). This can help you identify any issues with your planning proposal before you apply for a licence.

Even if you are applying for one of the licences that is now charged for, you may find that the pre-submission screening service saves you time (and money). Using this pre-application service may solve problems in advance so that the licence itself can be more easily (and speedily) processed.

You can find out more about the pre-submission screening service here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pre-submission-screening-service-advice-on-planning-proposals-affecting-protected-species>

If you have any questions on licence charges, please contact the project team at [wildlifelicences@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:wildlifelicences@naturalengland.org.uk).

\* \* \* \*

## **District level licensing available soon in more places**

Natural England’s innovative approach to Great Crested Newt (GCN) licensing will soon be available across six new areas.

District level licensing started in Woking, and schemes are now being run across 32 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in the South Midlands, Kent and Cheshire. By the end of March 2020, developers in Essex, Swindon and Wiltshire, Somerset, Shropshire, Greater Manchester and northern Somerset and southern Gloucestershire will be able to apply for a GCN licence through a Natural England-led district level licensing scheme, more than doubling the number of LPAs where DLL is an option!

DLL means developers can offset the impact of their development by investing in upfront provision of offsite compensation ponds in areas of the country most suitable for supporting newts to bolster and extend their populations over time.

DLL reduces delay and costs for developers and offers greater certainty over project timescales, providing reassurance and encouraging more efficient progress of housing schemes plans. The scheme benefits local people and authorities by helping to ensure homes are built, local authorities deliver their plans and the local environment is significantly improved.

### **District level licensing**

- ✓ Delivers significant benefits for GCN conservation status
- ✓ Is very simple to use

- ✓ Offers developer costs and timings known from the start
- ✓ Means developments that have been through planning will not be held up by protracted post-planning licensing
- ✓ Delivers a high yield of high value habitat created/restored, monitored and maintained over 25 years

### **Day 1 readiness**

How will having an NE-led district level licensing scheme available in my area feel different? What do I need to know? Our home pages for information for developers on applying to the scheme are on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) but it involves just 4 quick and easy steps:

1. Applicant makes enquiry to NE to confirm:
  - a) Eligibility to use DLL; and
  - b) How much it will cost.
2. NE supplies a cost quotation to applicant (if eligible) for signature:
  - a) Quotation forms a contract between NE and the applicant stating that DLL can be used to account for impacts to GCN as a result of development.
  - b) Signed quotation informs the applicant's planning application.
3. Once planning permission granted, applicant pays NE and submits licence application (signed IACPC, receipt of payment and Reason Statement only).
4. Licence granted and works affecting GCN can legally proceed.

\* \* \* \*