

Newt Statement - Site Location: Ropley, Botley Road, West End, SO30 3HA

The season for Great Crested Newts (GCN) eDNA testing has passed. The small ornamental pond may or may not have GCN. It would make sense that prior to any development activities the water be eDNA tested to confirm presence or not. Quotations for eDNA testing were requested from the following provider: -

Hello Robert,

Thanks for your message. Please see following links for our GCN eDNA services and prices.

<https://adas.co.uk/services/edna-analysis-for-great-crested-newt-gcn/>
<https://adas.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/edna-price-list-2024.pdf>

These are easy samples to take- but for GCN licencing work you will need a licenced ecologist to take the sample. You also need to take these during the GCN breeding season (April-June)- when GCN activity within the water bodies is thought to be highest. Some folk do test outside of this timeframe- we are still expecting some samples back at the moment, but these clients are often doing GCN testing to give them a heads up as to what to possibly expect next year.

Do let us know if you require any further information

Best Regards

Ben

Dr Ben Maddison

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Please visit our website: www.adas.uk



If GCN are present, then a District Licensing Scheme exists in the Borough and this could be implemented. It would seem logical that the eDNA testing is carried out when the seasons permit, to confirm presence or not to prevent abortive costs and licensing.

The District Licensing Scheme can be implemented, so measures exist to deal with the GCN under a protected license.

A quotation was obtained from NatureSpace, see below: -

**NATURESPACE**
PARTNERSHIP

GREAT CRESTED NEWT
DISTRICT LICENCE QUOTE
Ropley

NatureSpace case reference: 202410010
Quote valid until 08/01/2025

Development classification: Minor

Impact Risk Zone: Green

One-time fee: £1,000 (+VAT)

Mitigation requirements: None

NatureSpace timescale: 5 working days
From payment and complete application



YOUR NEXT STEPS



1. Have an ecologist complete a quick habitat survey
2. Submit your [application form](#) and maps to NatureSpace*
3. Pay your one-time fee to NatureSpace by BACS
4. Receive your certificate within 5 working days
5. Submit your certificate to your Local Planning Authority (LPA)

AFTER PLANNING PERMISSION



1. Receive written authorisation from your LPA
2. Start work on site under the protection of a licence

*You can provide application files before or after submission of your planning application to your LPA

QUICK, SIMPLE, CERTAIN, SUSTAINABLE.

T: 01865 688307
E: info@naturespaceuk.com

Conclusion: -

It would be logical to establish if GCN are present or not and eDNA test would confirm this, unfortunately the season for testing has passed. The developer could put in place a District License (DLL), but this would seem over the top when the presence of GCN is not known. It would make more logical sense to condition the planning application to ensure that eDNA testing is carried out or a District License is put in place prior to commencement. This would ensure that the GCN are protected, and appropriate measures are put in place to deal with GCN if present.

Other options available are for the developer to apply for a GCN Mitigation License. Again, this would seem a pointless exercise if GCN are not present in the pond

The developer is caught up in the seasons which is outside of their control. The protection of GCN is fundamental, if no GCN exist nothing more needs to be done, but this cannot be confirmed due to seasonal constraints. A District License could be put in place, but it would be pointless if no GCN are found in the pond. A Mitigation License could be applied for but again a pointless procedure if GCN are not found.

It is clear that measures exist and can be implemented to protect the GCN if found in the pond and this could be sensibly conditioned to ensure it is dealt with prior to commencement of any site activities.