

FIVE ESTUARIES OFFSHORE WIND FARM ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

VOLUME 6, PART 6, ANNEX 4.20: VE OWF: GCN DISTRICT LEVEL LICENCING IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND CONSERVATION PAYMENT CERTIFICATE - UNSIGNED -AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Application Reference Application Document Number Revision APFP Regulation: Date EN010115 6.6.4.20 A 5(2)(a) March 2024



Project	Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm
Sub-Project or Package	Environmental Statement
Document Title	Volume 6, Part 6, Annex 4.20 VE OWF: GCN District Level Licencing Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate - unsigned - and associated documents
Application Document Number	6.6.4.20
Revision	A
APFP Regulation	5(2)(a)
Document Reference	005024266-01

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Revision	Date	Status/Reason for Issue	Originator	Checked	Approved
А	Mar-24	ES	OPEN	GoBe	VEOWFL

Harrison, Victoria

From:	Jess Colebrook @slrconsulting.com>
Sent:	18 March 2024 09:13
То:	gcndll@naturalengland.org.uk
Cc:	Harrison, Victoria; Somers, Kieran; FiveEstuaries DCO
Subject:	[EXT] Five Estuaries Offshore Windfarm: Onshore Ecology: GCN DLL enquiry
Attachments:	05356.00010.0426.0 Site Plan.pdf; 240312 To JC_SLR - NE Shapefiles.zip; 240318
	GCN_DLL_Enquiry_Form_Dec22.pdf

[** EXTERNAL EMAIL **]: This email originated from outside of the organization - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Natural England,

I am sending the attached documents on behalf of the applicant, Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Ltd, who is copied in. Please find enclosed:

- 1. Enquiry Form;
- 2. Site Plan; and
- 3. Shapefiles.

If you have any questions in relation to the enquiry please do hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Jess

Please note my working pattern is Tuesday to Friday inclusive

Jess Colebrook (she/her/hers)

Principal - Ecology & Biodiversity

O M @slrconsulting.com

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at https://cdn.sanity.io/files/b0ecix6u/production/4d538364442e7636de2570fe5250279f1970d95e.pdf

SLR Consulting Limited. A company incorporated in England and Wales with registered number 03880506 and with its registered office at 1 Bartholomew Lan EC2N 2AX.

Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing Enquiry Form

Please fully complete this Enquiry form and return to: gcndll@naturalengland.org.uk

Natural England will rely on the accuracy of the information provided by an Applicant. It is the duty of an Applicant to inform Natural England if the extent of the land affected by the proposed development alters or if information about great crested newts in that area exists.

For further information on great crested newt licensing please see Further Notes

1(a) Applicant Details

To be completed by the Applicant. All fields marked * are mandatory. **Note:** The Applicant is the company or individual carrying out the development to which this Enquiry Form relates.

- * Title: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other (specify)
- * Forename(s)
- * Surname

If you represent an organization please complete (i), (ii) and (iii)

(i) * Company Name (Registered name followed by T/A any trading name.)

- (ii)* Position/Business Title
- (iii) Registered Company Number
- * Address

County

- * Telephone Number
- * Email Address

1(b) Invoicing - details of where the invoice (to cover the costs of enquiring) will be sent for payment

* Email Address for Invoice This is where the invoice will be sent

* Purchase Order Number (or an alternative Payment Reference) This is required in order to raise an invoice

Company Name

* Address

County

- * Customer contact name
- * Telephone Number

VAT Registration Number

* Postcode

Mobile

* Postcode

Mobile



1(c). Consultant / Ecologist deta	ils	
* Name:	* Contact number	
* Email Address:		
2. Site Information		
* Is the address for the site to be license	d different to the applicant's address?	Yes No
If 'Yes': For the Site / Location to be lice	nsed, please complete all of the following	details
If 'No': Please complete Site / Location N	Name and OS Grid Reference boxes only.	
	Site Detail	ls
* Site / Location Name:		
* House No:		
* Address		
County:		
Postcode:		
* OS Central Grid Reference Use format AB 01234 56789		
OS Grid References start and end points (for linear schemes only)		
		Submitted?
(b) * Please supply with your Enquiry for of the proposed development.	m a map or site plan depicting the red line	boundary
	y fall in and/or adjacent to one of the follow rvation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA	ling
Ramsar Site, Site of Special Scientific Inte	rest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR)	
If Yes to (c), please provide further details an	nd complete items (d) and (e). If 'No', please go	o to section 3.
(d) Have you consulted with Natural En	gland for advice on the implications of	
the application on the designated site? Please note, if a development is likely to imp. Natural England must be consulted as early a	act a site with statutory designation,	∕es No Not known
(e) Please give either the outcome of yo	bur	
consultations, or the reason why you have yet consulted us. Please provide any relevant	ve not	
correspondence and the name of the local N England adviser or reserve manager consult	atural	

3. Development Information

(a) * Please provide a brief description of your development proposal.

(E.g. Development of 100 houses with associated access road and car parking area)

(b) * Please indicate which Small-scale housing (1-10 houses) Infrastructure / Transport category the development Large-scale Housing (11+ houses) Commercial / Retail / Industrial proposal falls within. Please choose the best match Social (Education / Health / Leisure) Private (Household/Farm) Minerals / Quarries Utilities / Energy Other (Please specify): Consent (c)* To the nearest month and year, what are the Month Year N/A obtained anticipated timescales¹ for: i) Submitting for planning consent (or other relevant consent)? ii)Commencing developmental activities (under a GCN licence)? (d) * Is your development phased, or part Yes No of a wider phasing plan? If Yes to (d), please provide further details on the number of phases and the indicative timescales of each phase:

(e) * Are the **majority** (>50%) of impacts associated with the development *Temporary*? Yes No

All habitat temporarily impacted **must** be reinstated like-for-like, or better, within one year post-development

If Yes to (e), please complete questions i) to iii), if No, please move to question 3(f)

- i) What is the duration of temporary construction activities?
- ii) Will there be impact continuously through this duration, or will works be undertaken periodically? If periodic, please provide details of the frequency.

ii) Will waterbodies within the development boundary be retained, or directly impacted (damaged, or directly destroyed)? Please provide a description, including any remediation activities, with waterbody references as required.

(f) In Section 3(b), if you have selected either '*Small-scale housing*' or '*Private*', please answer the following questions:

 Is the development the new construction of a single dwelling, or; the repair, maintenance or extension to a single existing dwelling? 	Yes	No
ii) Will any waterbody within the development site be directly impacted?	Yes	No

¹ This data is valuable for Natural England's DLL pond delivery forecasting, which allows us to provide a better service.

4. Impact Assessment

The Applicant need only complete one of Section 4(a) or 4(b) depending on the availability of survey

data ² (i) *Has the Applicant conducted recent ³ surveys concerning the presence or absence of g crested newts on-site, and within 250m of the site? If Yes, please continue to section 3(a)	great Yes	No
(ii) * Does the Applicant have access to other recent ³ information about the presence of great crested newts on-site, and/or within 250m of the site?	Yes	No
If Yes, please continue to section 3(a). If No, please continue to section 3(b)		

(a) Survey

* Submit with your Enquiry Form and Map/Plan Two Polygon GIS Shapefiles⁴ including: Submitted?

* (i) Red Line Boundary shapefile of proposed development, with:

- 'Site_Name' attribute
- 'Site Ref' attribute. The Site Reference will be '00000'

* (ii) Polygon shapefile showing all suitable waterbodies⁵ within (or intersecting with) the red line boundary and all suitable waterbodies within (or intersecting with) a 250m buffer from the red line boundary.

- 'Pond_ID' attribute an identification number for each pond
- 'GCN' attribute to show GCN survey results where A = Absent, P = Present, NS = No Survey
- (iii) * Have you excluded any waterbodies from the pond layer? Yes No

(iv) If yes, please provide justification on why waterbodies were excluded. Please refer to the Gov.uk guidance: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/great-crested-newts-district-level-licensing-schemes-for-developers/ecologists-how-to-provide-pond-and-waterbody-data-for-district-level-licensing</u>

(v) * What year was the survey carried out in?: If multiple surveys, please detail this.

(b) No Survey

* Submit with your Enquiry Form and Map/Plan One Polygon GIS Shapefile⁴ including: Submitted?

Red line boundary of proposed development, one record for each proposed development as a polygon shapefile with:

- 'Site_Name' attribute
- 'Site_Ref' attribute. The Site Reference will be '00000'

(c) Other information

*Does the Applicant have other information, or awareness, about the presence of great Yes No crested newts on, or within 250 metres of the Site?² If Yes, please describe (e.g. biological records):

² A person commits an offence if, for the purposes of obtaining, whether for himself or another, the grant of a licence under regulation 55 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 he makes a statement or representation or supplies a document or information which he knows to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes a statement or representation or supplies a document or information which is false in a material particular.

³ Survey information is acceptable if collected by a licensed great crested newt surveyor, in line with best practice guidance within <u>four</u> seasons from the submission date of this form.

⁴ A 'Polygon shapefile' consists of the following file extensions as a minimum: .shp .dbf . shx . prj.

A Google Earth .KML file is also acceptable. Please contact the DLL team for more information on this format.

⁵ Please refer to Gov.uk guidance on what constitutes a suitable waterbody under a DLL Impact Assessment.

5. Other Inform	nation			
(a) * To your knowled	dge, have there been any (DAS) or licence decision	previous GCN applications concerning this site?	ons, Yes	No
•	question 5(f). If 'Yes' pleas	•	- e).	
(b) * Date of most red	cent application:			
(c) * What was the ap	oplication or licence refere	ence number given?		
(d) * What was the o	utcome of the previous ap	oplication? (Please select	one of the following)	
Granted	Not Granted	Advice only	Deferred	Not yet known
licensed 'mitigation' v	dge, does this application work on the site being app provide further details:		Yes	No
(f) * Are there any kno If 'Yes' to (f): Please p	own active GCN licences provide further details: ppments please detail	within 250m of the Site?	Yes	No
active licence number				
(g) Is the developmer	nt a Nationally Significant	Infrastructure Project (NS	SIP)? Yes	No
If yes to (g), please p engagement with Nat				
(h) Additional Comme alternative contact de	ents: Please supply any a tails.	dditional information perti	inent to the application,	e.g.

6. Declaration

The person signing this Declaration should be the person named in section 1(a) as being the applicant or person applying on behalf of a corporate applicant, or the authorised individual whose details are given in section 1(c).

The Applicant confirms and warrants that the information given in this Enquiry Form is up to date, complete and correct.⁶

* Signed on behalf of and duly		
authorised by the Applicant	* Dated	* Print name

* For electronic applications, please insert an electronic signature, or tick this box to confirm the declaration:

If you are not the applicant referenced in Section 1(a), please confirm you have their permission to submit this form on their behalf:

⁶ Any person who in order to obtain a licence under regulation 55 of the 2017 Regulations knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. A person found guilty of such an offence is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine, or both.

Further Notes

Under regulation 43 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ("the 2017 Regulations") it is an offence to deliberately capture, injure, kill or disturb the species of animal known as European protected species. It is also an offence to deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a European protected species or to damage or destroy a breeding site or a resting place of one of these species. The great crested newt is a European protected species.

Under regulation 55 and 58 of the 2017 Regulations, Natural England may grant a licence permitting the carrying out of activities that would otherwise breach regulation 43.

In order for Natural England to grant a licence it must be satisfied, amongst other things, that the activities it is licensing are for one or more of the **purposes** set out at regulation 55 (2), namely: scientific or educational purposes; ringing or marking activities; conservation activities; protecting zoological or botanical collections; preventing the spread of disease; preventing serious damage to agriculture, forestry, fisheries or property. In addition, Regulation 55 (2) (e) allows the grant of a licence where the purpose is "preserving public health or public safety or **other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature** and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment".

Furthermore, Natural England must also be satisfied that there is **no satisfactory alternative** (regulation 55 (9) (a)), that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a **favourable conservation status** in their natural range (regulation 55 (9) (b)).

Under Natural England's Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing approach compensatory works funded by a Conservation Payment are intended to allow the provisions of reg. 55 (9) (b) to be satisfied ("that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range"), but do not address the issues raised in reg. 55 (2) ("... imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature ...") or 55 (9) (a) ("that there is no satisfactory alternative"). Accordingly, no representation, assurance, condition or warranty is given by Natural England to the effect that activities associated with the development described in this form will go on to be licensed by Natural England.

In the event that Natural England does go on to grant a licence to the Applicant under reg. 55 of the 2017 Regulations any such licence will be subject to the conditions therein set out, which may include (but not be limited to) conditions that activities may not be commenced until the Applicant has paid the Conservation Payment in full.

Privacy Notice

Who collects your data?

The data controller is Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, Y01 7PX. You can contact the Natural England Data Protection Manager at: Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP. foi@naturalengland.org.uk

The Defra group Data Protection Officer is responsible for checking that Natural England complies with legislation. You can contact them at: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, SW Quarter, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. <u>DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gsi.gov.uk</u>

What of my data is being collected and how is it being used? What is the legal basis for the processing?

The data collected by Natural England includes, the Applicant's name and contact details, the name and contact details of any agent appointed by the Applicant, the name and contact details of individual points of contact within the Applicant's organisation and that of the Applicant's agent, customer type, the nature of the Site, the development proposed on the Site, reasons for that development and bank account information for refunds.

Natural England uses such data to run a great crested newt licensing scheme ("the Scheme") in the area in which the Site is located. Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. That task is to conduct the licensing functions delegated by Defra to Natural England under section 78 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The processing by us of personal data relating to wildlife-related or animal welfare offences or related security measures is carried out only under official authority. This information is used in assessing an application as it is a material fact.

Who will my data be shared with?

Information provided by or on behalf of the Applicant and any supporting material will be used by Natural England to undertake our licensing functions and to operate the Scheme. This will include assessing an Applicant's proposals in line with the Scheme, producing a Scheme certificate, assessing an Applicant's licence application, issuing a licence if applicable, monitoring compliance with licence conditions and collating licence returns and reports. In carrying out these functions Natural England may discuss your Scheme application with third parties such as contractors commissioned to deliver the necessary

habitat compensation. Natural England may for particular licence applications and at specific stages of the licensing process discuss your application with third parties. The details of this sharing are set out here https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-licensing-privacy-notice

Natural England recognises there is significant public interest in wildlife licensing and in those who benefit from receiving a wildlife licence. Therefore, we may make information publicly available. Information released may include, but is not limited to, your name or business name, application and licence details as well as reports and returns. Natural England, however, realises that some licensed activities can be sensitive and we will not release information that could harm people, species or habitats. In some cases, for example, this may mean not releasing the names and addresses of individuals or the location of the licensed activity.

We will respect personal privacy, whilst complying with access to information requests to the extent necessary to enable Natural England to comply with its statutory obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

How long will my data be held for?

Your personal data will be kept by us for 7 years or, if a Scheme certificate subsequently issued, for 7 years following the period of effectiveness of any such Scheme certificate.

If you are relying on my consent to process data, can I withdraw my consent?

No, because the processing is not based on consent.

What will happen if I don't provide the data?

Failure to provide this information will mean that we will be unable to assess your application for a Scheme certificate and/or a wildlife licence.

Will my data be used for automated decision-making or profiling?

The information you provide is not connected with individual decision making (making a decision solely by automated means without any human involvement) or profiling (automated processing of personal data to evaluate certain things about an individual).

Will my data be transferred outside of the EEA?

The data you provide will not be transferred outside the European Economic Area.

What are my rights?

A list of your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018, is accessible at: <u>https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/</u>

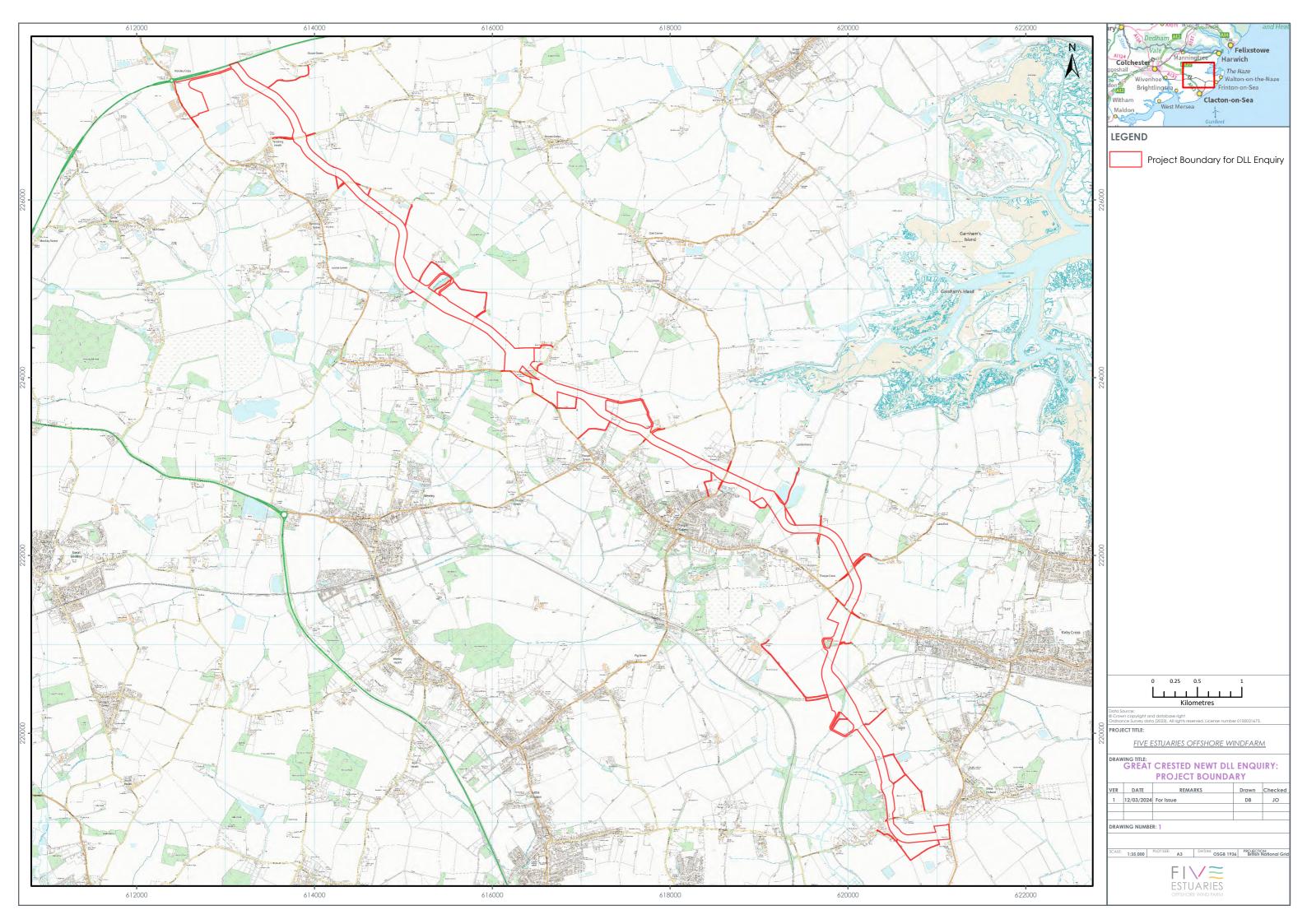
How do I complain?

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the ICO (supervisory authority) at any time. Should you wish to exercise that right full details are available at:

https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/

Natural England's Personal Information Charter

Details of our Personal Information Charter can be found at: <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/personal-information-charter</u>



Harrison, Victoria

From:	Jess Colebrook @slrconsulting.com>
Sent:	18 March 2024 09:24
То:	Harrison, Victoria; FiveEstuaries DCO
Subject:	[EXT] FW: Thank you for your Email - District Level Licensing
Attachments:	Producing Site Boundary and Pond data in Google Earth V1.1.pdf

[** EXTERNAL EMAIL **]: This email originated from outside of the organization - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

For your records

Please note my working pattern is Tuesday to Friday inclusive

Jess Colebrook (she/her/hers)

Principal - Ecology & Biodiversity

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From: SM-NE-GCN District Level Licensing <gcndll@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Jess Colebrook
Subject: Thank you for your Email - District Level Licensing

CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED) WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)

GREAT CRESTED NEWT DISTRICT LEVEL LICENSING

Thank you for contacting the District Level Licensing (DLL) Mailbox.

<u>Please be aware we are currently receiving a very high volume of emails and are taking up to 7 working days to action emails received. Please do not chase for a response before this timeframe. We will action your request as soon as possible, thank you.</u>

Natural England (NE) aims to respond to your enquiry within 10 working days. We will send you an acknowledgement to confirm when this period begins. We will also notify you if it will take us longer than 10 working days because of any complexities.

If you have submitted a formal enquiry, this will be reviewed to ensure we have all relevant information required to complete an impact assessment. You need to submit:

- the Enquiry Form and a PDF map of the site
- the development boundary and pond data if the survey route is being used) in the form of a 'geographical information system' (GIS) polygon shapefile.

Shapefile is a term which refers to a group of files: .shp .dbf .shx .prj, all of which must be provided. You can send a Google Earth Keyhole Markup Language (KML) file instead of a Shapefile. Follow the attached guidance to produce KML file.

You must submit a GIS polygon shapefile or Google Earth KML file before we can process your enquiry. From June 2023 we will look to recover costs for any missing shapefiles that are then digitised inhouse.

Once completed, the details of the impact assessment will be included within an Impact Assessment and Conservation Payment Certificate (IACPC). Please inform us by email if the terms of the IACPC are not satisfactory or you no longer wish to make use of Great Crested Newt DLL.

If you have submitted a signed IACPC, it will be complete and effective when it has been countersigned and dated by a NE officer and returned to you. You will need to pay the first stage payment (if applicable) before the countersigned certificate being issued. You'll receive an invoice explaining how to pay this.

If you have submitted a licence application and reasoned statement, this will be reviewed to ensure we have all relevant information required to complete an assessment. You will receive a formal application acknowledgement once this has been confirmed. You will receive an invoice for the outstanding conservation payment. An adviser will assess the reasoned statement (if required). A licence will be issued within 10 working days following receipt of the conservation payment, subject to the reasoned statement assessment reaching a satisfied decision. There is no 'fast track' to obtaining a licence.

If you have submitted a general query about DLL or emailed regarding anything else, we will aim to respond to you soon as possible.

For further information on DLL processes, see <u>GOV.UK</u>.

Kind Regards,

The District Level Licensing Team.

Want to know more about District Level Licensing? Watch our story: <u>District Level Licensing for great crested newts</u> – our story - YouTube

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