

# Environment Reg 19

Submitted by: Anonymous user

Submitted time: 8 Aug 2024, 12:08:05

Name/Organisation

**NatureSpace Partnership**

Email Address

[REDACTED]

1. What type of respondent are you?

**Member of the Public**

2. What Environment policy you are commenting on

**EV2 - Ecological Assets and Opportunities for Enhancement**

3. Does your comment relate to a specific paragraph(s)? if yes which paragraph does this relate to?

**NA**

4. In relation to the policy or paragraph you are commenting on, do you consider the Island Planning Strategy for submission to be legally compliant?

**Yes**

5. Please give details to support your answer to question 4

- **Yes\_consistent\_with\_national\_po**

6. In relation to the policy or paragraph you are commenting on, do you consider the Island Planning Strategy for submission to be sound?

**Yes - consistent with national policy**

8. What modifications do you think are needed to make the Island Planning Strategy legally compliant and/or sound?

**The Isle of Wight Council holds a Great Crested Newt Organisational (or “District”) Licence granted by Natural England. The associated District Licensing Scheme is administered by NatureSpace Partnership. It is based on a great crested newt landscape-scale conservation strategy, which aims to focus the creation of new habitats where they will be of maximum benefit to the species, whilst also reducing risk and uncertainty through the planning process for developers and planning authorities. The scheme provides an additional licensing option for developers, enabling new sustainable development whilst also conserving great crested newts.**

**In the District Licensing Scheme, developers pay for new habitats to be created based on the impacts arising from their proposed development. This approach applies the mitigation hierarchy whereby some on-site avoidance or mitigation may still be required in specific circumstances (e.g. to avoid very high impacts to newt populations) and includes a conservation payment for the creation or restoration, and long-term management and monitoring, of off site habitats.**

**The scheme is based on a Species Conservation Strategy that ensures high-quality aquatic and terrestrial habitat provision in areas which represent the best places for great crested newts to thrive, delivering a strengthened network of new ponds for breeding and associated terrestrial habitats such as scrub, rough grassland and hedgerows. This means that the District Licensing Scheme is based on the Lawton principles of ‘more, bigger, better and joined up’ complementing government targets for biodiversity conservation. The strategy results in a range of other biodiversity benefits and therefore contributes towards nature’s recovery at the landscape scale. More details on the District Licensing Scheme can be found at [www.naturespaceuk.com](http://www.naturespaceuk.com)**

**If appropriate, data, including maps, associated with this District Licence Scheme can provide a strong evidence base for this updated Local Plan.**

9. Do you have any comments on the policies map?

**If appropriate we have data and maps associated with the District Licence Scheme that we can provide for a strong evidence base for this local plan.**

11. Do you wish to request to appear at the hearing sessions that will take place?

**No**

12. Please outline why you would like to attend?

**NA**