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**Sent:**

14 October 2025 10:30

**Subject:**

'WEST OF IFIELD' URGENT LETTER SUBMISSION

**Categories:**

Comments Received

Dear Editor

Chancellor Rachel Reeves: "Some snails on the (blocked) site that are a protected species or something...We knew about that issue because we've got a good relationship with the developer and he brought it to our attention" ['Rachel Reeves clears planning blockage amid 'good relationship' with developer', Guardian, Oct 7].


The Guardian: "The chancellor appeared to be referring to the little whirlpool ramshorn snail, which is 5mm in diameter, and one of the rarest creatures in Britain. It is an indicator of clean rivers and ponds as it is very sensitive to sewage pollution.

What the unnamed developer failed to tell the ill-advised Chancellor is that the Ramshorn Snail - a rare, protected species - is the freshwater equivalent of the 'Canary-in-the-Coalmine' which detected poisonous gases.

The future of this massively-important little snail is now "uncertain" - as is the water quality [and quantity] within this ancient Parish and beyond.

Councils' are called upon, again, to declare an Ecological Emergency in Sussex - without hesitation.

Yours sincerely

  
The Ifield Society

2 Lychgate Cottages  
Ifield Street, Ifield Village  
Crawley, West Sussex



Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail - a rare, protected species. Its future is “uncertain”.



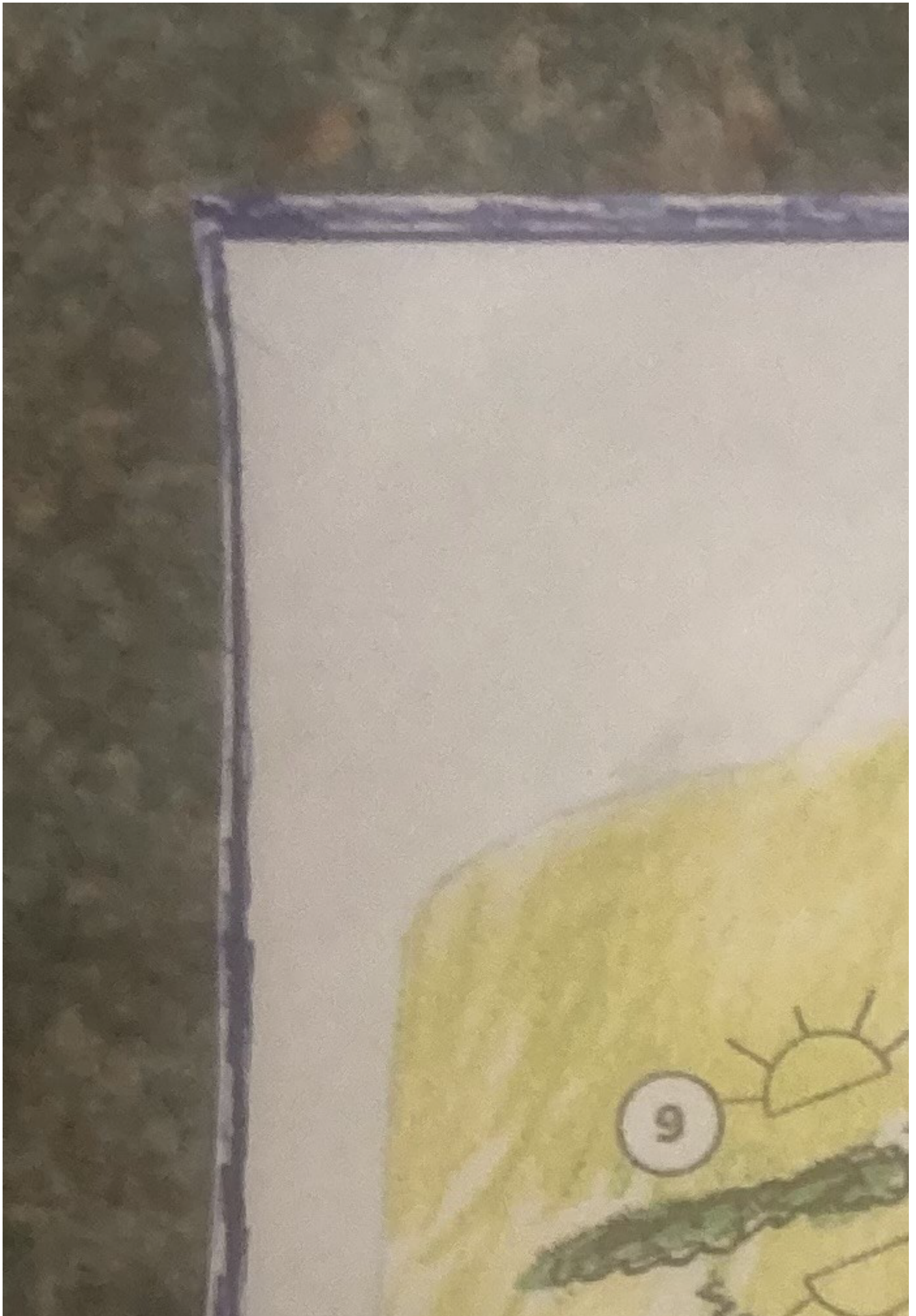
AN ILLUSTRATION

Ancient Parish of Ifield - designation as a 'National Landscape' by Natural England?



Homes England Master Plan - North Sussex [West of Ifield][Ancient Parish of Ifield]





Proposed 'Ifield Park' within the Ancient Parish



Ancient Parish of Ifield [boundary.in black} - West of Ifield, North Sussex