

From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 24 September 2025 16:01:48 UTC+01:00
To: "Hannah.Darley" <Hannah.Darley@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: NatureSpace Consultation- DC/25/1364 | Use of land for the stationing of 2no. caravans for residential purposes, together with the formation of hardstanding and associated landscaping. Construction of associated utility buildings
Categories: Consultations

Good afternoon Hannah,

Planning reference: DC/25/1364 | Use of land for the stationing of 2no. caravans for residential purposes, together with the formation of hardstanding and associated landscaping. Construction of associated utility buildings

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. The applicant has provided an ecological report in the form of - *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Staalcot Fields, Pulborough, The Ecology Co-op, August 2025*, which states:

- *"There is one waterbody within 250m of the proposed development. While there is some terrestrial habitat on the site that is suitable for great crested newts, this is mostly contained to the southern boundary and the immediate strip of vegetation that proceeds it."*
- *"The patch of grassland in the middle of the site provides much lower quality habitat, and it is extremely unlikely that great crested newts would be found in this area."*
- *"Based on the latest proposals, only the area of grassland to the north will be impacted by the proposed works. In this instance, a precautionary approach to the works is considered an appropriate mitigation effort when considering the proposed impacts."*
- Precautionary measures for great crested newts are briefly outlined in section 4.7 of the report

Whilst we agree that a reasonable avoidance measures statement is proportionate to the likely scale and impact of this development, it is recommended that this statement should be written out fully, and include information on what do if a great crested newt is encountered, as well as measures regarding material storage and any trenches should they be required. This statement must be written by a suitably qualified ecologist and submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval prior to determination or secured via a pre-commencement condition.

Best wishes,

Laura Downs (*she/her*)
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