



Date: 12 December 2025

Our ref: 11418

Kate Turner
Horsham District Council
Parkside
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

By email only: Planning Department, planning@horsham.gov.uk

Thank you for requesting advice on this application from Place Services' ecological advice service. This service provides advice to planning officers to inform Horsham District Council planning decisions with regard to potential ecological impacts from development. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer who will seek further advice from us where appropriate and necessary.

Application: DC/25/1852
Location: Millfields Farm Horsham Road Rusper West Sussex
Proposal: "Removal of Condition 18 of previously approved application DC/24/0699 (Demolition of existing structures and erection of 43no. dwellings (Use Class C3), creation of a new access and provision of public open space, alongside associated landscaping and other works)
Relating to Water Neutrality."

Dear Kate,

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above Variation of Condition application.

No ecological objection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No ecological objection subject to attached conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information required/Temporary holding objection	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recommend Refusal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject to Natural England's formal comments on the conclusion of the LPA's Appropriate Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>

[Please refer to Horsham District Councils advice regarding Water Neutrality requirements following Natural England's Withdrawal Statement \(31st October 2025\).](#)

Summary

In Natural England's view the package of ecological resilience measures and proposed licence amendments provides certainty that development in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone (SNWSZ) will not have a likely significant effect on the Arun Valley sites in line with the Habitats Regulations. The long-term solution set out by Natural England and the assessment confirming that development in the SNWSZ will not have a likely significant effect on the Arun Valley Sites means that Natural England has decided to withdraw its September 2021 Position Statement.

Therefore, we support the removal of Condition 18 because it is no longer necessary.

Please contact us with any queries.

Hayley Dean MCIEEM MSc BSc (Hons)

Senior Ecological Consultant

Place Services at Essex County Council



Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Horsham District Council.

Please note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.