

Subject: FW: DC/23/1114 Rudgwick Brickworks

Sent: 16 January 2024 15:04

To: Robert.Hermitage [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: DC/23/1114 Rudgwick Brickworks

Dear Robert

Many thanks for your email.

Bats

The information provided in the Ecology letter (PLANNING APPLICATION REF: DC/23/1114 ERECTION OF NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING (CLASS E)) (The Ash Partnership, 31st May 2023) would have been sufficient for us to withdraw our holding objection with regard to bats. This is because the letter confirms that there is no building on site and that the White Willow will not be affected by the works.

Gt Crested Newt (GCN)

In our response dated 4th Aug 2023, we accepted that the balancing pond does not contain GCN. However, we recommended further GCN surveys as there are four waterbodies within 500m of the site and three ponds with confirmed GCN records within 1km of the site. This is in accordance with [Government Standing Advice](#). We understand from Ecology letter (PLANNING APPLICATION REF: DC/23/1114 ERECTION OF NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING (CLASS E)) (The Ash Partnership, 31st May 2023) that it was intended that an application would be made for a District Licence (DL) through the [NatureSpace Partnership](#), although the Ecology letter (ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT) (The Ash Partnership, 31st May 2023) appears to contradict this. It is not clear which is the latest letter as they are both dated 31st May 2023. The LPA would have needed certainty of likely impacts on protected species and if DL had been chosen the applicant would have needed to provide evidence of acceptance from NatureSpace.

However, if the applicant's ecologists considered that a precautionary non-licensed method statement for GCN would avoid any offence, we would review this information.

Please note that we are now not able to comment on GCN, as from October 2023 we have been instructed to leave all comments on this species to the NatureSpace Partnership.

I hope this is helpful, but please let us know if you need further information.

Best wishes

