27th March 2025

Shazia Penne
Horsham District Council
Parkside,
Chart Way,
Horsham,
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

By email only

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/24/1464**
Location: **Land at Badgers Hollow Crays Lane Goose Green West Sussex RH20 2LR**
Proposal: **Siting of three holiday lets, including a composting toilet, a storage container, ground mounted solar panels, reed bed treatment system, associated hardstanding and the creation of a lake. (Part Retrospective).**

Dear Shazia

Thank you for re-consulting Place Services on the above part retrospective application.

a) No ecological harm/No objection	
b) Requires further information	
c) Recommend grant permission subject to conditions	Yes
d) Recommend refusal	
e) Subject to Natural England's formal comments on the conclusion of the Water Neutrality Appropriate Assessment	Yes
f) Subject to Natural England's formal comments on the conclusion of the Bat Appropriate Assessment	Yes
g) Discharge of condition	

Please note that following receipt of Natural England's position statement on developments in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, decisions on planning applications should await the completion of a Sussex North water neutrality strategy unless they can demonstrate water neutrality.

Summary
We have reviewed the additional documents submitted for this application.

We have no comments in addition to our response dated 14th November 2024 (together with the bat HRA Screening report) and are still satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination. This provides certainty for the LPA of the likely impacts on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and, with appropriate mitigation measures secured, the development can be made acceptable.

As previously advised, submission for approval and implementation of the details below should be a condition of any planning consent:

Recommended conditions

1. **ACTION REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS**
   "All mitigation and enhancement measures and/or works shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Charlotte Dwight Ecology, August 2024), as already submitted with the planning application and agreed in principle with the local planning authority prior to determination.

   This may include the appointment of an appropriately competent person e.g. an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) to provide on-site ecological expertise during construction. The appointed person shall undertake all activities, and works shall be carried out, in accordance with the approved details."

   Reason*:* To conserve and enhance protected and Priority species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

2. **PRIOR TO ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT LAYOUT**
   "A Biodiversity Enhancement Layout for the biodiversity enhancements listed in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Charlotte Dwight Ecology, August 2024) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

   The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Layout shall include the following:
   a) detailed designs or product descriptions for biodiversity enhancements; and
   b) locations, orientations and heights for biodiversity enhancements on appropriate drawings.

   The enhancement measures shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter."

   Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under paragraph 187d of the NPPF 2024 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely

Genevieve Broad MCIEEM MSc BSc (Hons)
Ecological Consultant
Place Services at Essex County Council
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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.