



The Ecology Co-op

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex GU28 9BU
Tel: 01798 861 800, E-Mail: info@ecologyco-op.co.uk

18th August 2026

Ref: Naturespace Consultation on application DC/25/2114

Dear Mr Holmes,

I write further to another request made for further ecological information at this site. A visit was made today (18th August 2026), further to the request to investigate two claimed pond locations identified by 'an interested party' as Ponds A and B in figure 1 below. Please note the indicated red hatching does not at all represent the extent of the proposed development site as indicated in this correspondence.

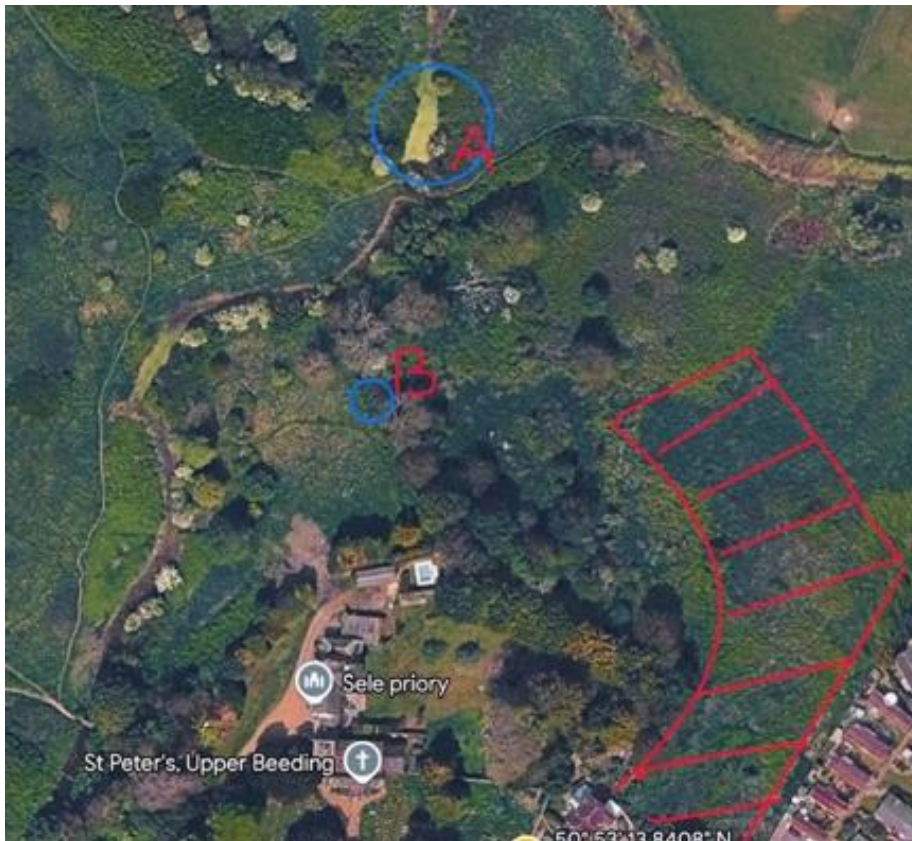


Figure 1. An image provided by the public to illustrate claimed pond locations.

The location of Pond A is within the wet ditch network connected to the River Adur, which was explained in my letter dated the 14th August to act as a barrier to movement and through its connection to the Adur makes it a highly unlikely breeding location due to fish predation. This feature is shown in Photographs 1 & 2 below for context. It is presently a small feature with a dense cover of duckweed *Lemna minor* and

bordering common reed *Phragmites australis*. The size of this part of the ditch holding water has undoubtedly reached its smallest size following the prolonged drought observed this summer.



Photographs 1&2. Pond A as marked in Figure 1, with tall fringing common reed.

The location of Pond B was explored extensively, despite challenging scrub growth. Figure 2 below identified the location explored with respect to the illustrated location of Pond B. A search of this area failed to identify any waterbodies, or any natural topography that might lead to the formation of a pond (ground depressions or slopes etc.). Photographs 3-6 illustrate the landscape in this location.

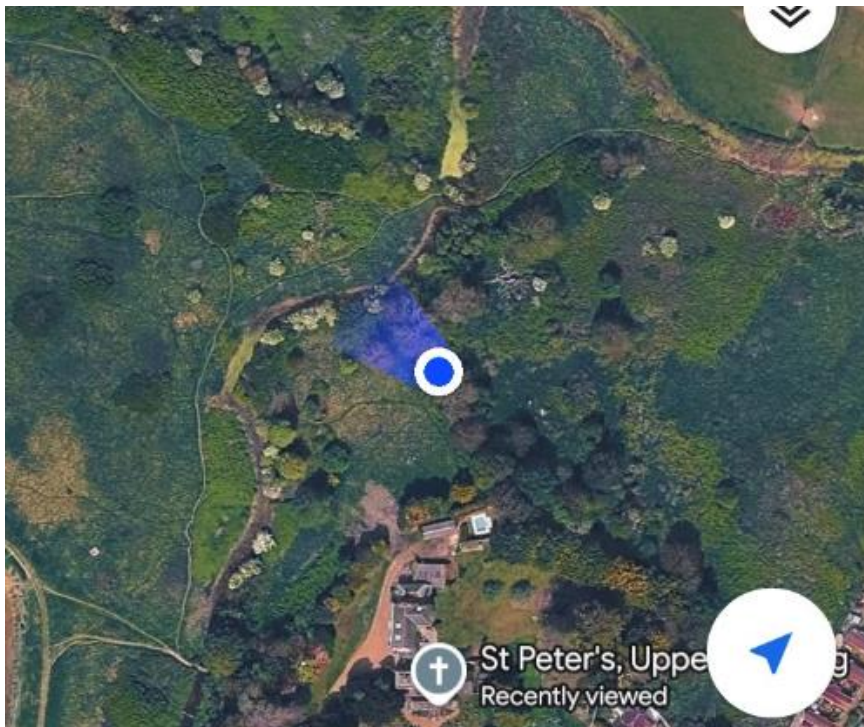


Figure 2. The surveyors location of exploration around the indicated position of Pond B (refer to Figure 1).



Photographs 3 & 4. Scrub habitat dominating the area around the indicated location of Pond B.



Photograph 5. The adjacent tree line to the indicated location of Pond B

As we have maintained, there are no ponds identified within close proximity to this site and the ponds identified within my letter dated the 14th August remain to be the only ponds identified from the desktop assessment, site surveys and now this wider search following public objection. I hope it can now be concluded that great crested newts do not pose a notable constraint to this development proposal.

Kind regards

Paul Whitby
BSc (Hons), MCIEEM, CECOL

Tel: 01798861800
Mob: 07761154345
Email: paul@ecologyco-op.co.uk