From: Matthew.Porter <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 October 2026 20:39:37 UTC+01:00
To: "Matthew.Porter" <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Melton Drive Storrington DC/26/0972

Matthew Porter
Principal Planning Officer

Telephone: 01403 215561
Email: Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton

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From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 15 October 2026 18:00
To: Matthew.Porter <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Melton Drive Storrington DC/26/0972

Good afternoon Matthew,

Thank you for re-consulting us on the above application. The applicant has highlighted that there is more recent survey information available than that referenced within our previous comments. All ponds within 250m have been surveyed in 2024 except for p2 and p5, all surveyed ponds were negative. This follows negative results from 2022 also. Given the suitability of the onsite terrestrial habitat and history of negative results, it could be considered disproportionate to request further survey data. However as there are still unsurveyed ponds within the landscape, there could be a risk to GCN in the absence of mitigation. We note that the applicant has submitted their reptile mitigation strategy which will provide some protection for GCN, as will the measures proposed within the CEMP (condition 8) which is currently awaiting permission. In addition to this, we would recommend the following informative is added to the decision notice:

"The applicant is reminded that, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to (amongst other things): deliberately capture, disturb, injure, or kill great crested newts; damage or destroy a breeding or resting place; intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a resting or sheltering place. Planning permission for a development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation. Should great crested newts be found at any stage of the development works, then all works should cease, and a professional and/or suitably qualified and experienced ecologist (or Natural England) should be contacted for advice on any special precautions before continuing, including the need for a licence."

If at any point during construction works any great crested newts are identified, then the following instructions must be strictly adhered to:

- Stop all works immediately and leave the area
- Inform an ecologist immediately who will provide further guidance / instructions
- Do not resume construction works until advised it is safe to do so by an ecologist

Best wishes,

Laura Downs *(she/her)*
District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) – West Sussex

NatureSpace Partnership
e: Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com
m: 07356 159774
w: www.naturespaceuk.com
Company operating hours: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 17:00

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