21st January 2025

Joshua Lee
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/24/1851**
Location: **Stane Court Stane Street Billingshurst West Sussex RH14 9HP**
Proposal: **Installation of 3x non-illuminated fascia signs.**

Dear Joshua,

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above application.

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

Summary
We have reviewed the submitted documents for this application. Please note that comments on Biodiversity Net Gain are provided by Horsham District Council in-house.

We consider that, as the fascia signs are not illuminated and given the location, there will be no impact on ecology. We have no objections on ecological matters excluding Great Crested Newt as we have been instructed to leave comments on this European Protected Species to the NatureSpace Partnership.

Please note that the site lies approximately 5.2km east of The Mens Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and therefore lies within the 6.0km Key Conservation Area for the SAC (Sussex Bat Special Area of Conservation Planning and Landscape Scale Enhancement Protocol). The qualifying feature for the SAC is Barbastelle bats.

Therefore, if the fascia signs should need to be illuminated at a later date, this will trigger HRA screening in relation to The Mens SAC

Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely

Genevieve Broad MCIEEM MSc BSc (Hons)
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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.