From: Jennie Shea <jennie.shea@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 05 March 2025 10:18:02 UTC+00:00
To: "Jacques.Burrowes" <Jacques.Burrowes@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Application Consultation - DC/24/1747
Categories: Consultations

Good morning Jacques,

Planning reference: DC/24/1747

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. It is considered that the proposed development would present a low risk to great crested newts and/or their habitats. However, as the development is within close proximity to an unsurveyed pond and within the amber Impact Risk Zone, I recommend that the following informative should be attached to planning consent:

"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."

The following recommendations are also provided to further reduce the likelihood of impacts on this species:

- Any vegetation in the construction area will be kept closely mown during the course of the construction work.
- Any trenches left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps to prevent GCN from becoming trapped.
- Any building materials such as bricks, stone etc. should be stored on pallets to discourage GCN from using them as shelter.
- Any demolition materials should be stored in skips or similar containers rather than in piles on ground.

If the applicant wishes to completely avoid any risks relating to great crested newts, they have the option to enquire for their Council's District Licence, which provides full legal cover for any impacts to great crested newts and therefore removes the risk of having to stop works if great crested newts are found on site. More details on the District Licensing Scheme operated by the council can be found at www.naturespaceuk.com .

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 try to handle or rescue a great crested newt
- Do not resume construction works until advised it is safe to do so by an ecologist

It should be noted that if an individual great crested newt is found at any point during the works, a European Protected Species Licence (EPSL) or District Licence (DL) may be required to permit works that would potentially cause disturbance and otherwise commit an offence under the relevant legislation.

If you have any queries, then please do get in contact.

Kind regards,

Jennie Shea
District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) - West Sussex

NatureSpace Partnership
e: jennie.shea@naturespaceuk.com
m: 07529 902079
o: 01865 688307
w: www.naturespaceuk.com
Company operating hours: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 17:00

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