

From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 06 July 2026 14:55
To: Matthew.Porter <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: DC/25/2087 | Thakeham Tiles Ltd Rock Road Storrington West Sussex RH20 3AD

Good afternoon Matthew,

Thank you for re-consulting us on the above application. The applicant has provided some further information in the form of, *DC/25/2087 Environmental DNA survey, Thakeham Tiles, Storrington, The Ecology Co-op, June 2026*, which states that:

- *"Out of seven ponds, five were subject to eDNA assessments in May 2026, conducted by James Whitby, MSc, Associate member of the chartered institute for environmental and ecological management and great crested newt survey licence holder."*
- *"Pond 1, located in the north-eastern block of deciduous woodland (TQ 1045315073) was not subject to an eDNA survey in 2026 as it was completely dry at the time of survey. As the survey had followed a prolonged period of ran, it is likely that if the pond held water for extended periods of time during the newt breeding season, the pond would have had water at the time of survey."*
- *"All ponds returned a negative result, confirming that great crested newts are not present in any of the ponds located within 250m of the application site."*

We welcome the updated eDNA results provided and are in agreement that the likelihood of an offence being committed is low enough in this instance that a license would not be required. Given the presence of unsurveyed ponds within the landscape however and due to the presence of woodland and scrub onsite, we would recommend that the mitigation measures originally recommended within the applicant's PEA, i.e. mitigation storage, habitat management, toolbox talk, are imposed in order to adequately mitigate for any residual risk. We therefore recommend that the statement is written out in full by a suitably qualified ecologist and the measures included secured via condition.

Best wishes,

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

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