

From: Alice.Johnson <Alice.Johnson@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2026 13:58:29 UTC+01:00
To: "Alice.Johnson" <Alice.Johnson@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: DC/26/0660 | Ingfield Manor School Ingfield Manor Drive Five Oaks Billingshurst West Sussex

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Sent: 23 June 2026 11:45

To: Alice.Johnson <Alice.Johnson@horsham.gov.uk>

Subject: DC/26/0660 | Ingfield Manor School Ingfield Manor Drive Five Oaks Billingshurst West Sussex

Good morning Alice,

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. The applicant has submitted some ecological information in the form of, *Ecological Impact Assessment, Woodview School, Billingshurst, ECOSA, March 2026*, which states that:

- "Evaluation The eDNA and presence/absence surveys confirmed the presence of great crested newt within three of the ponds within 500 metres of the site, with a peak count of 8 great crested newts in Pond 6"
- "The proposals could result in harm to individual great crested newt in their terrestrial phase. No breeding ponds will be lost as a result of the proposals."
- "As a result of the loss of great crested newt terrestrial habitat at the site, a European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence will be required prior to the development"

works commencing. This can only be applied for once planning permission is in place with any relevant wildlife conditions discharged"

- *"The EPSM licence application will require the preparation of a clear and reasoned Method Statement which details the methods for maintaining the conservation status of the species at the site."*

The above report has identified 4 ponds within close proximity to the development site which have returned positive results for GCN. We are therefore in agreement that a licence will be necessary for these works. The applicant has stated that they wish to pursue the European Protected Species Licence (EPSL)

In order to pursue the EPSL, the applicant must provide the necessary great crested newt survey information and draft mitigation statement to satisfy the licence requirements for a European Protected Species Licence. These must be submitted to the Council prior to determination to evidence that they will be able to get a Licence from Natural England subsequently.

Alternatively, the District Licence scheme can be joined at any time. This method of licensing often removes the need for survey work and onsite mitigation for great crested newts as it provides compensation habitats off site. This would provide certainty to the applicant, as their licensing route can be determined within 10 working days at any time of the year. Should you wish to utilise Horsham District Licence then an enquiry can be made at www.naturespaceuk.com

Best wishes,

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

Company operating hours: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 17:00

