

From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 08 September 2026 12:56:06 UTC+01:00
To: "Bethan.Tinning" <Bethan.Tinning@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: DC/26/1030 | Kestrel Farm Harbolets Road West Chiltington West Sussex RH20 2LQ
Categories: Consultations



Good afternoon Alice,

Planning reference: DC/26/1030 | Kestrel Farm Harbolets Road West Chiltington West Sussex RH20 2LQ

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. The applicant had provided an ecological report in the form of - *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report, Kestrel Farm, Harbolets Road, West Chiltington, West Sussex, RH20 2LQ, Arun Ecology, December 2025*, which states:

- *"The habitat within the development boundary includes a native hedgerow trees and bramble scrub that broadly provides suitable terrestrial habitat (foraging, commuting and resting places) for GCN. The other neutral grassland parcels within the development boundary provide sub-optimal habitat as a permanent resting place for GCN due to these habitat parcels having insufficient cover that is characterised by the short sward height"*
- *"The habitat removal required to enable the development is limited to a small area of short other neutral grassland that is unsuitable as a permanent resting place for GCN due to its short sward height"*
- *"In our professional opinion, the risk of an offence being committed in relation to GCN is therefore acceptably low"*
- Precautionary measures for great crested newts are outlined in section 6.5.6 of the report

Given the small scale of the development, and likely very limited impacts to the suitable onsite habitat, we are satisfied with the approach provided and therefore recommend the use of a compliance condition to secure the measures outlined within the report.

Best wishes,

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

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