01 November 2024

Alice Johnson
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.

Dear Alice

Application: **DC/24/0864**
Location: **Field Of Dreams Betley Lane Henfield West Sussex BN5 9QT**
Proposal: **Construction of a wildlife pond (Retrospective).**

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above retrospective application.

a) No ecological harm/No objection	Yes
b) Requires further information	
c) Recommend grant permission subject to conditions	
d) Recommend refusal	
e) Discharge of condition	

Summary

We have reviewed the documents supplied by the applicant, but unfortunately there is an absence of ecological information included with the application to help assess the potential use of the site by European Protected Species, protected species and the presence of Priority habitats. However, we note from the Cover Letter (Rural Planning Group, May 2024) that the wildlife pond was constructed with funding from the Wilder Horsham District Nature Recovery Award Scheme and that the Recovery Network is a collaboration between Sussex Wildlife Trust and Horsham District Council.

We understand from the submitted documents that the pond is situated within previous arable land, with a stream running along the northern boundary, and that the banks of the pond have been planted with wildflower seeds. In addition, it also appears from the Cover Letter (Rural Planning Group, May 2024) that the pond design is appropriate for wildlife, being a maximum of 2m depth and with a low gradient.

In the absence of ecological information included with the application, the potential use of the site by European Protected Species and protected species, together with any impacts from the development, was not formally assessed before works commenced. However, given that the land was previously arable, we do not consider that the development will have caused significant impacts to protected species or habitats.

Therefore, we are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination of this retrospective application. With appropriate long term management, the wildlife pond will, by design, enhance biodiversity and we consider no conditions are reasonable or necessary.

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.