

**From:** West Sussex@ <westsussex@naturespaceuk.com>  
**Sent:** 24 September 2026 09:23:50 UTC+01:00  
**To:** "Halima.Chowdhury" <Halima.Chowdhury@horsham.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Consultation - Informative - DC/26/1307, Needs Farm, The Byre Steyning Road Partridge Green



**NATURESPACE**  
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24/09/2026

Dear Halima Chowdhury,

**Planning reference: DC/26/1307**

**Address: Needs Farm, The Byre Steyning Road Partridge Green**

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I recommend that the following informative should be attached to planning consent if minded to approve.

**Informative wording:**

**There is a low risk that great crested newts (GCN) may be present at the application site. Horsham District Council considers it to be unreasonable to require the applicant to submit a survey because this could be considered disproportionate to the scale and the likely impacts of the development. However, the application site lies in the Red impact zone as per the modelled District Licence map, which indicates that there is suitable habitat for GCN within the area surrounding the application site. Therefore, anyone undertaking this development should be aware that GCN and their resting places are protected at all times by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Planning permission for development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation or substitute the need to obtain a protected species licence if an offence is likely. If a GCN is discovered during site preparation, enabling or construction phases, then all works must stop until the advice of a professional/suitably qualified ecologist and **Natural England** is obtained, including the need for a licence.**

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

- **Any trenches left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps to prevent GCN from becoming trapped and checked in the morning for any GCN.**
- **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 the ground.**
- **In work areas or areas that are likely to be disturbed, vegetation should be kept short to discourage newts, areas of retained habitat should be maintained in favourable conditions e.g. knee height until construction is completed. If in doubt seek advice from an ecologist.**

If you have any further questions or if the development proposal changes, then please reconsult if necessary.

Laura Downs  
District Licensing Officer West Sussex

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