

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

Cc: Planning <planning@horsham.gov.uk>

Subject: NatureSpace Consultation - DC/25/2057 | Land North of Little Slaughterford Chapel Road Barns Green West Sussex

Good afternoon Alice,

Planning reference: DC/25/2057 | Land North of Little Slaughterford Chapel Road Barns Green West Sussex

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. The applicant has provided an ecological report in the form of - *eDNA Report 2025, Land South of Smugglers Lane, Barns Green, Ecology Partnership, June 2025*, which states:

- *"The site comprises one field of modified grassland bordered by hedgerows on each aspect. "*
- *"No ponds were identified on site, however, there were two ponds identified within 250m of the site boundary. Other waterbodies were also located within 250m of the site however, these lakes and ponds associated with a fishery and were considered unsuitable to support GCN."*
- *"Ponds 1 was subject to a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) and an environmental DNA (eDNA) survey on 27th May 2025"*
- *"Due to the negative eDNA surveys results, it is confirmed that GCN are likely absent from P1, despite it being of 'excellent' suitability"*
- *"As a precaution, it is recommended that reasonable avoidance measures to avoid impacts on GCN are taken when clearing areas of grassland onsite."*
- Precautionary measures for great crested newts are outlined in section 3.6 of the report

We are in agreement that the fishing lakes and associated fry ponds are unsuitable for GCN. We are also satisfied that the proposals are unlikely to impact the species and that the mitigation measures proposed are appropriate for this development given the missing data on P2. I 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

NatureSpace Partnership

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