

From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 03 November 2025 16:31:18 UTC+00:00
To: "Andy Watt" <Andy.Watt@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: DM/25/2376 Relocation of childrens play area fence and construction of path on edge of village green. Construction of eighteen public car parking spaces within public highway boundary to replace existing footpath and verge.

Good afternoon Andy,

Planning reference: DM/25/2376 Relocation of childrens play area fence and construction of path on edge of village green. Construction of eighteen public car parking spaces within public highway boundary to replace existing footpath and verge.

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. It is considered that the proposed development would present a low risk to great crested newts and/or their habitats. However, as the development is within the red Impact Risk Zone, as modelled by district licence mapping, I recommend that the following informative should be attached to planning consent:

"The applicant is reminded that, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to (amongst other things): deliberately capture, disturb, injure, or kill great crested newts; damage or destroy a breeding or resting place; intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a resting or sheltering place. Planning permission for a development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation. Should great crested newts be found at any stage of the development works, then all works should cease, and a professional and/or suitably qualified and experienced ecologist (or Natural England) should be contacted for advice on any special precautions before continuing, including the need for a licence."

Additionally, any vegetation within the works area shall be maintained at a maximum height of 30mm until construction is completed through regular mowing or grazing in order to discourage great crested newts from using the site. All works shall be carried out in accordance with the following measures:

- Any demolition materials should be stored in skips or similar containers rather than in piles on ground
- Any trenches left overnight should be covered or provided with ramps to great crested newts from becoming trapped.
- Any building materials such as bricks, stone etc. should be stored on pallets to discourage great crested newts from using them as shelter.

If at any point during construction works any great crested newts are identified, then the following instructions must be strictly adhered to:

- Stop all works immediately and leave the area

- Inform an ecologist immediately who will provide further guidance / instructions
- Do not resume construction works until advised it is safe to do so by an ecologist

Best wishes,

Laura Downs (*she/her*)

District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) – West Sussex

NatureSpace Partnership

e: Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com

m: 07356 159774

w: www.naturespaceuk.com

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



From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>

Sent: 03 November 2025 16:12

To: Andy Watt <Andy.Watt@midsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: DM/25/2376 Relocation of childrens play area fence and construction of path on edge of village green. Construction of eighteen public car parking spaces within public highway boundary to replace existing footpath and verge.

Good afternoon Andy,

Thank you sending over the applicant's response. In light of requirements imposed on the previous application, and due to the details that the applicant has provided regarding the likely scale of the excavation, I would be happy to accept that an informative with some avoidance measures would be sufficient here. I will follow up with a clean email with these measures included,

Best wishes,

Laura Downs (*she/her*)

District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) – West Sussex

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e: Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com

m: 07356 159774

w: www.naturespaceuk.com

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



From: Andy Watt <Andy.Watt@midsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 November 2025 10:49

To: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>

Subject: FW: DM/25/2376 Relocation of childrens play area fence and construction of path on edge of village green. Construction of eighteen public car parking spaces within public highway boundary to replace existing footpath and verge.

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Hi Laura

Thank you for your recent comments on the above planning application. In response, I have received the following comments from the agent (below). Could I please have your response and I will forward to him.

Kind regards

Andy Watt, BSc (Hons), MTPL, MRTPI

Senior Planning Officer

Development Management

01444 477517

andy.watt@midsussex.gov.uk

www.midsussex.gov.uk

From: Paul PBA <paul@pba-planning.co.uk>
Sent: 31 October 2025 11:01
To: Andy Watt <Andy.Watt@midsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Worth Parish Clerk 1 <clerk@worth-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: DM/25/2376 Relocation of childrens play area fence and construction of path on edge of village green. Construction of eighteen public car parking spaces within public highway boundary to replace existing footpath and verge.

Dear Andy,

I note that NatureSpace has requested the following condition:

“No development shall take place until a Precautionary Working Methods Statement (PWMS) detailing reasonable avoidance measures for great crested newts has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Works shall only be undertaken in accordance with the approved Method Statement.”

I am concerned that imposing this requirement will create unnecessary delay and cost for the Parish Council, particularly as this condition was not included on the previously approved scheme for nineteen parking spaces.

Since that approval, the site area has been reduced and no longer includes the frequently mown modified grassland referred to in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. It now comprises only bound surfaces and a narrow strip of heavily compacted verge, which will be replaced with a bound surface. The excavation will be shallow—only sufficient to lay sub-base materials—and open for a very short period. The adjacent village green, which contains mown grassland, will remain largely separated from the working area except for any small area cordoned off for material storage.

Whilst the site lies within a red impact zone, the actual habitat value is extremely low, and the works are minor and temporary.

Given these circumstances, the risk of Great Crested Newts being present or affected by the works appears negligible.

In light of Natural England’s guidance on proportionality, I would ask whether this condition is truly necessary?

Best regards

Paul Budgen

 01342 718827
 paul@pba-planning.co.uk
 www.pba-planning.co.uk
 Mereworth, Shipley Bridge Lane, West Sussex, RH10 3JL

pba
planning



Paul Budgen Associates LLP trading as PBA Planning
Registered Number: OC381162
Registered Address: Mereworth, Shipley Bridge Lane, Copthorne,
West Sussex, RH10 3JL

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