

From: danny.barker@bsclimited.co.uk <danny.barker@bsclimited.co.uk>
Sent: 22 February 2026 13:20:03 UTC+00:00
To: "Andy Watt" <andy.watt@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: DM/25/3199 - Erection of a two-storey gym and dining building with associated kitchen, plant, and external works, within the existing educational use of the site.
Attachments: 02222026_130309.jpg, View recent photos.png

Dear Mr Watt,

Thank you for your email and for forwarding the comments from NatureSpace.

By way of background, the application site comprises the former swimming pool footprint. The pool structure has been fully demolished and the area cleared and prepared for redevelopment. The existing tank and associated hardstanding were removed, and a formation base has been established ready for construction. The site is therefore previously developed land and is devoid of vegetation or suitable terrestrial habitat.

The adjacent waterbody sits within an established woodland area beyond the development footprint. No works are proposed to the waterbody or to the surrounding woodland. The development is confined strictly to the area identified on the submitted drawings, being the cleared former pool site. No green areas are proposed to be affected by the scheme.

There has been no indication to date of the presence of protected species, including Great Crested Newts, within the pond. In any event, to the east and south of the waterbody lies extensive established woodland, which would provide a significantly more suitable and undisturbed habitat than the developed land to the north, where the application site is located. The site itself comprises cleared, compacted ground and does not provide suitable refuge, foraging, or hibernation habitat.

For clarity, I attach an image of the cleared and prepared site and the water body.

In this instance, the application site comprises entirely cleared, previously developed land forming the former swimming pool footprint, now reduced to compacted formation and devoid of vegetation. It does not provide suitable terrestrial habitat for Great Crested Newts in terms of refuge, foraging, or hibernation opportunities. There is clear physical and functional separation between the development area and the adjacent pond, which lies within established woodland beyond the operational footprint of the works. No vegetation removal is proposed, and there is no ecological connectivity between the compacted development site and the woodland margin. On this basis, it is considered that the risk to protected species is negligible and that further survey work should not be necessary.

Should NatureSpace require confirmation of distances between the development boundary and the pond, or any further clarification, I would be pleased to assist.

Kind regards,
Danny

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

Sent: 12 January 2026 14:22

To: Danny Barker (danny.barker@bsclimited.co.uk) <danny.barker@bsclimited.co.uk>

Subject: FW: DM/25/3199 - Erection of a two-storey gym and dining building with associated kitchen, plant, and external works, within the existing educational use of the site.

Dear Mr Barker

Please see the consultation response from NatureSpace below. I would be grateful if you could provide the requested information, which I will then forward.

Many thanks

Andy Watt, BSc (Hons), MTPL, MRTPI

Senior Planning Officer

Development Management

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Working together for a Better Mid Sussex

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

Sent: 12 January 2026 13:50

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

Subject: DM/25/3199 - Erection of a two-storey gym and dining building with associated kitchen, plant, and external works, within the existing educational use of the site.

Good afternoon Andy,

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. I have reviewed the submitted documentation and note that there is a waterbody directly adjacent to the development boundary. I haven't been able to locate any photos of the site within the submissions so far on the portal. Therefore could I please request some photos of the waterbody, as well as photos of the vegetation which is due to be removed to facilitate the development?

Many thanks for your help,

Best,

Laura Downs (*she/her*)

District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) – West Sussex

NatureSpace Partnership

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



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