

From: Laura Downs <Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com>
Sent: 05 February 2026 14:22:21 UTC+00:00
To: "Hamish Evans" <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: DM/26/0064 | Land Adj. To Hounds Cottage Wall Hill Road Ashurst Wood East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 3TQ

Hi Hamish,

Planning reference: DM/26/0064 | Land Adj. To Hounds Cottage Wall Hill Road Ashurst Wood East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 3TQ

Thank you for consulting me on the above planning application. The applicant has provided an ecological report in the form of - *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Land at Hounds Cottage, Wall Hill Road, Ashurst Wood, RH19 3TQ, CT Ecology, December 2025*, which states:

- *"The survey area is dominated by scrub together with trees, areas of grassland, a single building, hardstanding and boundary hedgerows.*
- *"There are no ponds within the survey boundary and no ponds within 250m*
- *"The application site is small however areas of scrub and boundary hedgerows provide suitable foraging and sheltering opportunities for great crested with connectivity to the woodland to the west."*
- *"Due to small working footprint, together with the retention of boundary features, adopting a series of precautionary working measures will be sufficient to fully safeguard great crested newts that may pass through the area"*
- Precautionary measures for great crested newts are outlined in section 5.15 of the report

The above ecological report has identified that there are no ponds located within 250m. There does appear to be one located over 100m west, however in this instance due to lack of connectivity to the site, we are satisfied with the approach provided and 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

e: Laura.Downs@naturespaceuk.com

m: 07356 159774

w: www.naturespaceuk.com

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



From: Hamish Evans <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 04 February 2026 16:14

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

Subject: RE: DM/26/0064 | Land Adj. To Hounds Cottage Wall Hill Road Ashurst Wood East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 3TQ

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Hello Laura,

Thank you for the below and apologies for that. The document should be available to view on the planning register now. I am unable to send it via email as the document is too big but if you have an issues let me know.

Thank you,
Kind regards,

Hamish Evans
Planning Officer
Direct Line: 01444 477228
hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk
www.midsussex.gov.uk
Working Together for a Better Mid Sussex

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

Sent: 04 February 2026 14:47

To: Hamish Evans <hamish.evans@midsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: DM/26/0064 | Land Adj. To Hounds Cottage Wall Hill Road Ashurst Wood East Grinstead West Sussex RH19 3TQ

Good afternoon Hamish,

Thank you for consulting us on the above application. I have been reviewing the submitted documentation and note that within the applicant's BNG letter there is mention of a PEA (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, CT Ecology, October 2025) however I couldn't see this document on the portal. Please could I request a copy of this, and once received I will endeavour to comment as soon as possible

Best wishes,

Laura Downs *(she/her)*
District Licensing Officer (Great Crested Newts) – West Sussex

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