

[REDACTED]
90 Lewes Road
Haywards Heath
RH17 7SX

15 August 2025

Dear Joanne

Re: DM/25/0445 Land at North Colwell Farm

On 6 May 2025, I reported to the police that sections of hedgerow within this site had been cut down by the developer while surveying the field, in contravention of Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

The Crime Number for this is 47250086111.

I was hoping there would be a conclusion to the investigation, prior to planning being decided, but I have been informed it will be a few more weeks before a decision will be made.

Yesterday, I spoke to PC Luke Brown from the Sussex Police Rural Crimes Team, who is working on this case. He said that he visited the site with a representative from Millers Homes a few weeks ago and they accept responsibility for the destruction of the hedge.

As you are aware, Hazel Dormice were found in 4 locations in the hedgerows surrounding the fields (as listed on page 53 of the Ecological Impact Assessment). I have found them in an additional location approximately 30m from the proposed access road (as detailed in my letter dated 11/6/2025).

When I visited the field on 16/2/2025 with an ecologist, we observed that some of the hedgerows and bramble where the Hazel Dormice had been found had been cut to the ground. There was no regrowth, so it is believed the damage took place in late 2024/early 2025 after the discovery of Hazel Dormice. I contacted Natural England about this and they advised me to report it to the police.

As I have outlined in Section 7.2 of my submission "Evaluation of Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and BNG Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan (BNG/HMMP)":

- no license was sought from Natural England before disturbing the Hazel Dormouse
- the work was carried out during the hibernation period of the Hazel Dormouse, in contradiction of the Miller's Homes' mitigation proposals
- cut marks on the hedgerows have the appearance of a chainsaw, in contradiction of the Miller's Homes' mitigation proposals

- the material removed has been left on site, in contradiction of Miller's Homes' mitigation proposals

Thank you for your time in considering this submission.

Please can you ensure this information is included in the pack provided to Committee members.

Yours faithfully

