

## Scullion, Thomas

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**Subject:** FW: Land Off Scamps Hill Road Lindfield, West Sussex: Planning Application Ref: DM/24/0446 (Appeal reference APP/D3830/W/24/3350075)- Ecology Update & Response to Clarification Request

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**From:** Suzanne Mansfield <suzanne.mansfield@fpcr.co.uk>

**Sent:** 14 October 2024 17:05

**To:** Gen Broad - Ecological Consultant <Gen.Broad@essex.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Stuart Malcolm <stuart.malcolm@midsussex.gov.uk>; Sue Hooton - Principal Ecological Consultant <Sue.Hooton@essex.gov.uk>; MacKenzie, John <J.MacKenzie@gladman.co.uk>; Abigail V. Upham <abigail.upham@fpcr.co.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Land Off Scamps Hill Road Lindfield, West Sussex: Planning Application Ref: DM/24/0446 (Appeal reference APP/D3830/W/24/3350075)- Ecology Update & Response to Clarification Request

Hello Gen,

Please find our response to your request for clarification regarding the last water vole survey results. Our overall conclusions are also outlined.

The riparian mammal surveys carried out in both May and August 2024 revealed no evidence of water voles along the Scrase Stream and Northlands Brook. Both watercourses were deemed suitable but in 'poor' condition for this species. The Scrase Stream flows northeast along the northwest ownership boundary, featuring engineered banks with timber panels between galvanized posts. Emergent vegetation is present along the site side, with 2m high banks at a steep <45 angle. The Northland Brook flows north under Scamps Hill road via a bridge, passing the eastern blue line ownership boundary and into Little Walstead Wood. It is sectioned by weirs along its length with a shallow water level (>40cm). The banks were densely vegetated in the southern section and became sparser further north where it was shaded by woodland. It's also noteworthy that a desk study with Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC) yielded one record for water vole, dating back to 1991, approximately 980m northeast of the site.

It is anticipated that a headwall will be necessary to facilitate a drainage outlet into the Scrase stream, although this will be limited in scope. Both watercourses lie outside of the redline boundary with significant buffers. However, it would be necessary to ensure that negative impacts are avoided from post-development drainage, with regards to water quality and the wildlife dependent on these habitats, the necessary measures are given below.

The works comprising installing an outfall to the existing watercourse (Scrase stream) would be as per the approved Drainage Strategy. Any necessary working methods in relation to ecological matters would be set out in a CEMP and will be discussed with the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works during construction. Discharge rates and water quality will be maintained in accordance with the relevant discharge consent. The watercourse will continue to be managed and maintained by the body currently responsible.

Outline Dormouse Mitigation Measures will be forwarded tomorrow/ early Wednesday as a short Tech Note for your consideration. We are now in contact with NatureSpace regarding GCN.

Regards, Suzanne

**Dr Suzanne Mansfield** | Senior Director  
BSc(Hons), Ph.D, MCIEEM, CMLI