

Application Number	WSSC/028/21 – additional information
Location	Rock Common Quarry, The Hollow, Washington, Pulborough, RH20 3DA
Proposal	The continued winning, working and processing of sand from the existing Rock Common Quarry, the importation of inert classified engineering and restoration material, the stockpiling and treating of the imported material, the placement of the imported material within the quarry void and the restoration and landscaping of the quarry
Applicant	Dudman (Rock Common) Limited and The Wiston Estate
Grid Reference	512616 113483

Additional information was submitted by the applicant December 2022. Previous comments regarding pioneer habitats have been addressed and a response is given to wider concerns received by the authority concerning existing species. Subject to the appropriate implementation of the ecological and landscape strategies there remains no ecological objection.

Great crested newts (GCN):

Additional information has also been received neighbouring residents concerning the presence of GCN in the immediate locale. Precise locations couldn't be ascertained. Assuming they are present for precautionary reasons a review of the submitted EIA was undertaken.

SxBRC provided the ecological surveyors 33 records for great crested newts within the search area, the nearest of which was 200m to the north-west of the site, dated May 2020.

A Habitat Suitability Assessment was undertaken in 2015 and updated April 2021. Environmental DNA (eDNA) samples were taken and analysed from all suitable ponds contained within the quarry site and up to a distance of 250m from the site boundary where accessible. Ponds that were separated from the site by a significant barrier to GCN movement were excluded.

Importantly, negative e-DNA results were found for ponds within the quarry. Therefore, I am obliged to agree that the site is currently of negligible importance to great crested newts.

Regards

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