



12th May 2025

Katherine Williams
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS

By email only

Thank you for requesting advice on this application from Place Services' ecological advice service. This service provides advice to planning officers to inform Mid Sussex District Council planning decisions with regard to potential ecological impacts from development. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer who will seek further advice from us where appropriate and necessary.

Application: DM/24/2943
Location: Barlands The Street Warninglid Haywards Heath West Sussex RH17 5SZ
Proposal: Construction of a single-storey extension between the north elevation of the existing dwelling and the existing stable building. Conversion and alteration of existing stable building to habitable accommodation to include raising the roof of the building. Demolition of the existing detached garage building and construction of replacement garage and store building with habitable accommodation to the rear and first floor. Demolition of the existing porch to the north elevation, removal of existing door and infilling of existing door opening. Internal alterations to the existing dwelling to remove the existing Kitchen, widen an existing wall opening and install a glazed partition with door. Associated hard and soft landscaping works to comprise new terracing, steps and low-level retaining walls. Relocation of existing oil tank and installation of a replacement sewage treatment plan.

Dear Katherine

Thank you for consulting Place Services on the above householder application.

Recommended Refusal	
No ecological objections	
Recommended Approval subject to attached conditions	Yes
Subject to Natural England's comments on the conclusion of the Water Neutrality AA	
Subject to Natural England's comments on the conclusion of the bat AA	
Further information required	
Recommended Discharge of condition	



Summary

We have reviewed the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd., September 2024), relating to the likely impacts of development on designated sites, protected & Priority species and habitats, and identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

We have also reviewed the information submitted to demonstrate that Biodiversity Net Gain can be delivered within the timescale promised and to meet any mandatory BNG requirements required. This includes the Application Form.

We note from the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd., September 2024) that a licence for bats will be required before commencement of any works and recommend that a copy of this is secured by a condition of any consent. This is because the combined Phase 1 (daytime building inspection) and Phase 2 (dusk emergence surveys) in June and August 2024 confirmed an occasional day roost for a single Natterer's bat in the former stable. We support the outline mitigation measures on page 21 of the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd., September 2024). We understand that the applicant intends to use a registered bat consultant under a Bat Mitigation Class Licence and therefore, post consent, evidence of the site registration under a Bat Mitigation Class Licence for Bats will need to be submitted to the LPA.

We also note that no bats or evidence of bats was found in the garage, and, although there is evidence of a possible maternity roost for Long-eared bat species in the roof void of the main house, this location is not included in the proposed works and therefore there will be no impact to the bat roost. We therefore agree that no further surveys for bats are required.

We are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support determination of this application. However, please note we have no comments on Great Crested Newt as we have been instructed to leave comments on this European Protected Species to the [NatureSpace Partnership](#).

This provides certainty for the LPA of the likely impacts on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and, with appropriate mitigation measures secured, the development can be made acceptable.

The mitigation measures identified in the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd., September 2024) should be secured by a condition of any consent and implemented in full. This is necessary to conserve and enhance protected and Priority species particularly those recorded in the locality, which includes bats.

With regard to mandatory biodiversity net gains, it is highlighted that applications are required to deliver a mandatory 10% measurable biodiversity net gain, unless exempt under [paragraph 17 of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) and the [Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Exemptions\) Regulations 2024](#). As a result, we are satisfied that this application is exempt from mandatory biodiversity net gains, as the development meets the householder exemption.

We also recommend that reasonable biodiversity enhancements for protected, Priority and threatened species (such as bird boxes) should be identified and implemented to secure net gains for biodiversity, as outlined under Paragraph 187d and 193d of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024). The reasonable biodiversity enhancement measures should be outlined within a separate Biodiversity Enhancement Layout and should be secured by a condition of any consent.



This will enable LPA to demonstrate its compliance with its statutory duties including its biodiversity duty under s40 NERC Act 2006 (as amended) and delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013. We recommend that submission for approval and implementation of the details below should be a condition of any planning consent.

Recommended conditions

1. ACTION REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS

"All mitigation and enhancement measures and/or works shall be carried out in accordance with the details contained in the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd., September 2024), as already submitted with the planning application and agreed in principle with the local planning authority prior to determination.

This will include the appointment of an appropriately competent person e.g. an ecological clerk of works (ECoW,) to provide on-site ecological expertise during construction. The appointed person shall undertake all activities, and works shall be carried out, in accordance with the approved details."

Reason: To conserve and enhance Protected and Priority species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

2. PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORKS WHICH WILL IMPACT THE BREEDING / RESTING PLACE OF BATS: SUBMISSION OF A COPY OF EPS MITIGATION LICENCE OR EVIDENCE OF SITE REGISTRATION UNDER A BAT MITIGATION CLASS LICENCE FOR BATS

"Any works which will impact the breeding / resting place of bats, shall not in in any circumstances commence unless the local planning authority has been provided with either:

- a) a licence issued by Natural England pursuant to Regulation 55 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) authorizing the specified activity/development to go ahead; or*
- b) evidence of site registration supplied by an individual registered to use a Bat Mitigation Class Licence; or*
- c) a statement in writing from the Natural England to the effect that it does not consider that the specified activity/development will require a licence."*

Reason: To conserve protected species and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

3. PRIOR TO ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT LAYOUT

"A Biodiversity Enhancement Layout for biodiversity enhancements prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The content of the Biodiversity Enhancement Layout shall include the following:



- a) *detailed designs or product descriptions for biodiversity enhancements; and*
- b) *locations, orientations and heights for biodiversity enhancements on appropriate drawings.*

The enhancement measures shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details prior to occupation and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter.”

Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under paragraph 187d of the NPPF 2024 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely

Hamish Jackson ACIEEM BSc (Hons)

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Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council

Please note: This letter is advisory and should only be considered as the opinion formed by specialist staff in relation to this particular matter.