



Date: 24 September 2026
Our ref: 06138

Andrew Watt
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

By email only: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk

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.

Application: DM/25/1406
Location: Willowbrook Danworth Lane Hurstpierpoint Hassocks
Proposal: Proposed conversion and extension of hay barn to create 1 no. one bedroom dwelling with two proposed parking spaces and removal of existing mobile home.

Thank you for further re-consulting Place Services on the above application.

No ecological objection	☐
No ecological objection subject to attached conditions	☒
Further information required/Temporary holding objection	☐
Recommend refusal	☐
Subject to Natural England's formal comments on the conclusion of the LPA's Appropriate Assessment	☐

Summary

We have reviewed the additional information submitted and do not consider there will be any additional impacts on ecology, other than those identified in our response dated 14th November 2025.

However, please note that the Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., February 2023) which was submitted on 20th August 2026 is the out of date report. This was updated by the Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) & Eco-walkover - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., October 2025) submitted on 23rd October 2025. The latter report is the correct version.

Therefore, we are still satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available to support determination of this application. However, please note that 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](#).

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable, subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013. For clarity, we have shown the conditions below which we recommend for submission for approval. 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 Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) & Eco-walkover - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., October 2025) and Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., February 2023), as already submitted with the planning application and agreed in principle with the local planning authority prior to determination. This includes the Precautionary Method Statement for mobile protected and Priority species in the Mitigation for Other Species in the Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) & Eco-walkover - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., October 2025), which avoids impacts to protected species.

This may 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 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 ANY WORKS ABOVE SLAB LEVEL: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT LAYOUT**

“Prior to any works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout for protected, Priority and threatened species, prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist in line with the recommendations of the Daytime Bat Potential Roost Assessment (PRA) & Eco-walkover - letter of report (Wychwood Environmental Ltd., October 2025), 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 to achieve stated objectives;*
- b) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans (where relevant);*

The works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details shall be retained in that manner thereafter.”

Reason: To enhance protected and Priority species & habitats and allow the LPA to discharge its duties under National Planning Policy Framework (August 2026) N2 Part F and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

If external lighting is required:

3. **PRIOR TO OCCUPATION: WILDLIFE SENSITIVE LIGHTING DESIGN SCHEME**

“Prior to occupation, a “lighting design strategy for biodiversity” in accordance with Guidance Note 08/23 (Institute of Lighting Professionals) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The strategy shall:

- a) identify those areas/features on site that are particularly sensitive for bats and that are likely to cause disturbance in or around their breeding sites and resting places or along important routes used to access key areas of their territory, for example, for foraging; and*
- b) show how and where external lighting will be installed so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent the above species using their territory or having access to their breeding sites and resting places.*

All external lighting shall be installed in accordance with the specifications and locations set out in the scheme and maintained thereafter in accordance with the scheme. Under no circumstances should any other external lighting be installed without prior consent from the local planning authority."

Reason: To 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).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries in relation to this advice.

Yours sincerely,

Hamish Jackson ACIEEM BSc (Hons)
Senior Ecological Consultant
 Place Services at Essex County Council



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.

We are unable to respond directly to applicants/agents or other interested parties. Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant/agent or other interested parties may have, must be directed to the Planning Officer at the relevant LPA, who will seek further advice from us where appropriate.

Place Services have a policy relating to the use of AI. Unless otherwise stipulated, any AI use will be limited to basic proof-reading, grammar, and spelling correction. This response has been reviewed by the author(s). If you have any queries, please [contact us](#) for information about our AI guidance.