



25 April 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/24/2944

Location: Barlands The Street Warninglid Haywards Heath West Sussex RH17 5SZ

Proposal: Construction of a single-storey extension and 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 application.

No ecological objection	
Recommend approval subject to attached conditions	y
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 are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination of this application. We also agree that application is exempt from mandatory biodiversity net gain, as householder applications are recorded [within the Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Exemptions\) Regulations 2024](#).

We have reviewed the Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd, September 2024) relating to the likely impacts of development on designated sites, protected and Priority species & habitats and identification of appropriate mitigation measures. Please note that we have been instructed to leave comments on Great Crested Newts (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.

The Bat Survey Report (Batscan Ltd, September 2024) advises *“Accordingly, it is concluded that the former stable is used as an occasional day roost by a single Natterer’s bat. The bat’s roosting place will be damaged by the proposed building works and therefore a Bat Mitigation Licence must be sought, prior to the commencement of works.”* As a result, a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence for bats should be secured as a condition of any consent and is required prior to commence of works.

We recommend reasonable biodiversity enhancements should be provided for protected, Priority and threatened species, in order 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 Strategy 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 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 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), s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended) and Policy DP38 of the approved Mid Sussex District Plan 2014 – 2031.

2. PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORKS WHICH WILL IMPACT THE BREEDING / RESTING PLACE OF BATS: SUBMISSION OF 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 STRATEGY

"Prior to any works above slab level, a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected, Priority and threatened species, 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 Strategy shall include the following:

- a) Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed enhancement measures;*
- b) detailed designs or product descriptions to achieve stated objectives;*
- c) locations of proposed enhancement measures by appropriate maps and plans (where relevant);*
- d) persons responsible for implementing the enhancement measures; and*
- e) details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance (where relevant).*

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

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

4. 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 contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Wilson ACIEEM BSc (Hons)

Assistant Ecological Consultant

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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.