



Date: 3 July 2026
Our ref: 08186

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Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards Heath
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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/25/1708
Location: Sunte House Birchen Lane Haywards Heath West Sussex RH16 1RZ
Proposal: Alterations and extension to residential outbuilding associated with Sunte House (Barn); external and internal alterations to remaining outbuildings (Stables, Cowshed, Byre); external and internal alterations to separate dwellinghouse (The Cottage)(Amended plans, heritage rebuttal and ecology rebuttal received 19.12.2025 and amended plans received 12.06.2026)

Thank you for 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 which relates to internal construction details. We confirm that we have no further comments and are still 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](#).

For clarity, we have included the conditions recommended in our response dated 21st January 2026 below.

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 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Urban Edge Environmental Consulting, May 2024) and the Great Crested Newt eDNA Survey & Bat Survey for Building Group 2 (Urban Edge Environmental Consulting, November 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) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

2. WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF CONSENT: BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STRATEGY

“Within three months of consent, a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy for protected, Priority and threatened species, prepared by a suitably qualified ecologist in line with

the recommendations of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Urban Edge Environmental Consulting, May 2024) and the Great Crested Newt eDNA Survey & Bat Survey for Building Group 2 (Urban Edge Environmental Consulting, November 2024), 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).

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamish Jackson ACIEEM BSc (Hons)
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 Place Services at Essex County Council
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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.

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.