08 April 2024

Bethan Tinning
Horsham District Council
Parkside,
Chart Way,
Horsham,
West Sussex
RH12 1RL

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 Horsham 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.

Dear Bethan

Application: **DC/23/2320**
Location: **Medlars Swallows Lane Dial Post West Sussex RH13 8NN**
Proposal: **Part demolition of existing building and erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Replacement of existing flat roof with pitched roof, removal of existing dormer window, and installation of 1no rooflight. Re roofing of side porch and installation of new and replacement windows. (Householder Application)**

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

a) No ecological harm/No objection	
b) Requires further information	
c) Recommend grant permission subject to conditions	Yes
d) Recommend refusal	
e) Subject to Natural England's formal comments on the conclusion of the Water Neutrality Appropriate Assessment	Yes
f) Discharge of condition	

Please note that following receipt of Natural England's position statement on developments in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone, decisions on planning applications should await the completion of a Sussex North water neutrality strategy.

Summary

We have reviewed the Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023), supplied by the applicant, relating to the likely impacts of development on protected & Priority species and habitats, and identification of proportionate mitigation.

We note from the Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023) 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 emergence surveys in September 2023 confirmed the presence of Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bat day roosts within the tile hangings of the extension to the main house, as well as a Common Pipistrelle bat roost within the tile hangings on the main house. We support the outline mitigation measures in Section 6.13 of the Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023).

We note that the Annexe has negligible bat roost potential (Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023)) and we therefore agree that no further bat surveys are required for the Annexe. We also note that the Stables and Workshop buildings have low-medium bat roost potential, but no works are currently proposed on these buildings (Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023)). We agree that if works are proposed in the future, then further bat surveys must be undertaken on these buildings.

We are satisfied that there is sufficient ecological information available for determination. We have no objections on ecological matters excluding 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 protected and Priority species and, with appropriate mitigation measures secured, the development can be made acceptable.

This will enable the LPA to demonstrate its compliance with its statutory duties including its biodiversity duty under s40 NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

The mitigation measures identified in the Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023), should be secured by a condition of any consent and implemented in full. This is necessary to conserve and enhance protected and Priority Species.

If lighting is required, we also support the implementation of a Wildlife Friendly Lighting Strategy for this application (Bat Survey Report (AEWC, November 2023)) to avoid impacts from light disturbance. This should be secured by a condition of any consent and implemented in full. Therefore, technical specification should be submitted prior to occupation, which demonstrates measures to avoid lighting impacts to foraging / commuting bats, which are likely to be present within the local area. This should summarise the following measures recommended by GN:08/23 (Institute of Lighting Professionals) will be implemented:

- Do not provide excessive lighting. Light levels should be as low as possible as required to fulfil the lighting need.
- All luminaires should lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, compact fluorescent sources should not be used.
- Warm White lights should be used at <2700k. This is necessary as lighting which emits an ultraviolet component or that has a blue spectral content has a high attraction effect on insects. This may lead in a reduction in prey availability for some light sensitive bat species.

- Where appropriate, external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors and set to as short a possible a timer as the risk assessment will allow.
- Luminaires should always be mounted horizontally, with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt.
- Only if all other options have been explored, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. However, due to the lensing and fine cut-off control of the beam inherent in modern LED luminaires, the effect of cowls and baffles is often far less than anticipated and so should not be relied upon solely.

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013.

We recommend that reasonable biodiversity enhancements (such as bird boxes or solitary bee homes) should be identified and implemented to secure net gains for biodiversity, as outlined under Paragraph 180[d] of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023). The reasonable biodiversity enhancement measures should be outlined within a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout and secured by a condition of any consent.

Impacts will be minimised such that the proposal is acceptable subject to the conditions below based on BS42020:2013. In terms of biodiversity net gain, the enhancements proposed will contribute to this aim.

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 (AEWC, November 2023), 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) and Policy 31 of the Horsham Development Framework.

2. **PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORKS WHICH WILL IMPACT THE BREEDING / RESTING PLACE OF 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, providing the finalised details and locations of the enhancement measures shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

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 the NPPF 2021 and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (as amended).

If lighting is required:

4. **PRIOR TO OCCUPATION : WILDLIFE SENSITIVE LIGHTING DESIGN SCHEME**
"*A lighting design scheme for biodiversity based on GN: 08/23 shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The scheme shall identify those features on site that are particularly sensitive for bats and that are likely to cause disturbance along important routes used for foraging; and show how and where external lighting will be installed (through the provision of appropriate lighting contour plans and technical specifications) so that it can be clearly demonstrated that areas to be lit will not disturb or prevent bats using their territory.*

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) and Policy 31 of the Horsham Development Framework.

Please contact us with any queries.

Yours sincerely

Genevieve Broad MCIEEM MSc BSc (Hons)
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Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Horsham 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.