

Ecology response for DC/23/96600 34 MERDON AVENUE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH,
SO53 1EP

Discharge of conditions 4 (precautionary working) and 6 (arboricultural details) from
planning permission F/23/95483 for External pre-fabricated, single storey, timber clad office

Rachael Morris

21/12/23

I have reviewed the Precautionary Method of Working by Temple Ford Design (November
2023). A few modifications are required.

Section 4.2 Reptile Method Statement

In addition to hand searching vegetation and refugia which are suitable for reptiles, as they
can be quite elusive and difficult to catch, a two-stage process for cutting is usually used. The
first cut is usually done at 30 cm and then after 24 hours, vegetation can be cut down to the
ground.

The direction of cutting must be done from the far edge of the vegetation to be removed
towards an area of retained vegetation so that animals have a chance to move to a place of
safety on their own. This must only be done during the active reptile season (late April-June
and late August-September).

Handling of reptiles by a site manager (rather than a trained ecologist) is not recommended.
Animals should be allowed to move away on their own and not be handled other than by an
ecologist. This is especially true for slow worms and common lizards, which can shed their
tails if not handled correctly, leaving them open to infection and possible death. Adders
must never be handled by untrained personnel due to risk of being bitten. Grass snakes
produce a foul-smelling discharge (which is difficult to wash off) as a defence mechanism.

If more than two reptiles are found on site, the LPA ecologist must be notified and a suitably
qualified ecological consultant must be called in for advice.

Section 5.1 Birds. The nesting season is considered to be mid-February or 1st March through
31st August inclusive). Some birds will nest outside of this time and the season can also be
affected by the weather. (www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Public?When-is-the-bird-nest-season)

Lisa Malter

Ecologist