

Ecology response 8 6 26 for H/26/101174 7 MERDON AVENUE, CHANDLER'S FORD,
EASTLEIGH, SO53 1EH

Installation of a log cabin in the front garden

Charlie Vallis

8/6/26

I have reviewed the photos from the pre-app (April 2025). There is no vegetation within the area marked by the wooden stakes that would be affected by the proposal, however the pile of wood chips at the rear of the site could provide habitat for reptiles and amphibians. The rocks in the foreground of the photos appear to be surrounding an area that could be a pond. These rocks could also provide crevices where reptiles and amphibians might shelter.

The following precautionary working method must be conditioned.

The pile of wood chips at the rear must be dismantled by hand shovelling before the start of works.

All building materials must be stored on hard standing or on pallets, as far as possible from hedgerows, scrub or potential habitat.

Any excavations must be covered at night or be fitted with a small animal escape ramp

No fires can be lit on site.

Waste must be stored in a skip and not be allowed to accumulate in piles which could be used by wildlife. Any chemicals and fuels must be stored carefully and away from potential wildlife habitat.

If any animals are found, they must be allowed to move to a place of safety on their own and should not be handled. In the unlikely event that any great crested newts are found on site all work must stop and Natural England must be called.

The applicant is reminded that, under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to (amongst other things): deliberately capture, disturb, injure, or kill great crested newts; damage or destroy a breeding or resting place; intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a resting or sheltering place. Planning permission for a development does not provide a defence against prosecution under this legislation. Should great crested newts be found at any stage of the development works, then all works should cease, and a professional and/or suitably qualified and experienced ecologist (or Natural England) should be contacted for advice on any special precautions before continuing, including the need for a licence.

Lisa Malter

Ecologist

2/6/26

This site is in an amber impact risk zone for great crested newts. There are records of bats, hedgehogs and common toads nearby with nesting swifts in the wider area. The photo of the house available on Google maps shows vegetation that could support nesting birds in the garden.

To determine whether any surveys will be required I need to review close up photos taken in good light of any areas of the garden affected by the proposal.

Biodiversity enhancements will be required in accord with Local Plan policy DM 11 and NPPF (December 2024) paragraphs 187d and 192 b.

Additional information is available at:

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discover/in-your-garden/article/31>, planting for bats

<https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/WAG16%20Bats%20updated%202022%20WEB.pdf> - Stars of the Night guide to attract bats into your garden

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/>

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/hedgehog-homes/>

www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/landscape-and-urban-design-for-bats-and-biodiversity

<https://ptes.org/my-garden/>

<https://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/foodplants.php>

Lisa Malter

Ecologist