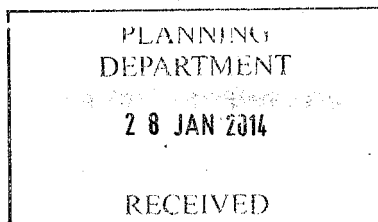


**HERTFORDSHIRE ECOLOGY**  
Environment, County Hall, Hertford, Herts, SG13 8DN

Mrs K Charles  
Case Officer  
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council  
The Campus  
Welwyn Garden City  
AL8 6A

Ask for: B. Tranter  
Our Ref:  
Your Ref: S6/2014/0008/FP

Tel: 01992 555220  
Date: 27/01/2014



Dear Mrs Charles,

**Planning application: S6/2014/0008/FP. 127 The Ridgeway, Cuffley. Proposed erection of rear extension at ground and first floor levels.**

Thank you for asking us to comment on the above application.

**Database and ecological evaluation**

The LRC database does not hold any biological records (habitats or species) for the proposal site. However, the LRC database does hold bat records from the surrounding area (though more than 400m away). From aerial photographs and the submitted documentation online we feel that the structure of the dwelling (recent construction in good condition) is suboptimal for bats as a roost site (though, of course, one can never be 100% sure as bats can be found in unlikely places); but the surrounding habitat is suitable for foraging bats. Therefore, whilst we cannot rule out the possibility of bats entirely we consider the LPA would not be justified in requiring an initial inspection survey to assess bat presence.

We also have records for Great Crested Newts (GCN) in the area. One from a pond quite some distance away (over 320m) and another closer to the development which lies just to the north of The Ridgeway, within Northaw Great Wood. As The Ridgeway will act as a physical barrier to the migration of GCN and the other pond is beyond 250m, which is generally recognised as the area within which a GCN typically spends its terrestrial life, we consider it highly unlikely that any GCN population will be impacted by the proposals.

**Recommendations**

We recommend that a precautionary approach is taken to the planned works and advise the following informatives should be attached should the application be approved:

As bats are fully protected species, we would advise that the demolition works proceed with caution and in the event of bats being discovered work should stop and appropriate advice obtained as to how to proceed.

We trust these comments are of assistance and should you require any further information or advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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Please note that the LRC component of HBRC has transferred to the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. The advisory service is still hosted by HCC and is now known as Hertfordshire Ecology. Our email address has changed to [ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk)